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Netanyahu calls on Syrians to renew negotiations

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu firmly called on Damascus yesterday to renew peace negotiations in the US, and again offered to withdraw from Lebanon first as a step toward a comprehensive agreement with Syria.

"I want to see an end to the bitter rhetoric against Israel. I want to see, of course, a halt to the terror in Lebanon and from organizations based in Damascus. I call on the president of Syria to prove the sincerity of his intention for peace and agree to our proposal to renew the negotiations for peace at the Wye Plantation," Netanyahu said.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the National Defense College, Netanyahu said Israel was prepared to withdraw from south Lebanon if three conditions were met. These include the disarming of Hizbullah, deployment of the Lebanese Army south to the international border with Israel, and protection of the Lebanese Army.

Eating his position of non-first, Netanyahu said Lebanon presented an escalating conflict between Israel and Syria, which could ignite a larger confrontation. "The first place for building a relationship of confidence and proving a sincerity for peace is Lebanon," he said.

Netanyahu added that he found himself in a bizarre situation, since both Israel and Syria wanted the IDF out of Lebanon.

"I find myself in a Kafkaesque situation. [Here is] a situation where the prime minister of Israel announces he wants to get out of the territory of an Arab state - Lebanon. And the Syrian government, together with the Lebanese, are opposing this withdrawal."

The Middle East has seen a lot of strange things, but this I've never seen before," Netanyahu said. "I hope that President [Hafez] Assad agrees to our proposal. I intend to advance with him the negotiations on peace."

The prime minister stressed that all peace negotiations would be guided by a firm commitment to security.



Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman who resigned yesterday. (Ezra Harari)

Justice Minister Ne'eman quits

Blasts Ben-Yair, accuses him of opening obstruction of justice probe to save job

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman unexpectedly resigned yesterday, after Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided to open a criminal investigation against him for allegedly obstructing justice during the investigation of Shas MK Aryeh Deri.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said in response that he had complete faith in Ne'eman's innocence, and would keep the Justice Ministry open for him for a time in hope that the allegations would quickly be proven unfounded. He added that he will appoint a caretaker minister within the next few days.

One candidate reportedly being considered for the post is Finance Minister Dan Meridor, both because of his previous experience as justice minister, and because his own ministry is so demanding that he could be relied on to relinquish the Justice Ministry without a struggle, should Ne'eman return.

Ben-Yair's decision was in response to a petition to the High Court of Justice filed two months ago by *Globes* journalist Yoav Yitzhak. Yitzhak had challenged Ne'eman's appointment on a number of grounds, most of which the court dismissed. However, it was troubled by an allegation that Ne'eman tried to persuade Martin Brown, a witness in the Deri trial, not to cooperate with the police.

Though the police and the State Attorney's Office had known of the affair for four years, it came to the public's notice only a couple of days before Ne'eman was appointed, when Brown testified in England. After the incident was

accused Ben-Yair of ordering the investigation in an effort to preserve his own job.

"I believe much of [Ben-Yair's] motivation was a desire to retain his job," he told Educational TV's *Erev Hadash*. "There is a feeling that if the attorney-general makes requests for investigations ... against the justice minister, or any other minister, that guarantees his tenure."

"I was asked questions [by the police], but not one of them related to obstructing justice," he added. "I'm certain the police know there is no basis for the charge that I obstructed justice ... I know that the police recommended not opening an investigation against me."

Ne'eman also charged that Ben-Yair had a conflict of interest in the decision, since if Brown's statement was proven to be a lie, it would destroy the value of his testimony in the Deri trial.

Ne'eman added that he would ask the government to fire Ben-Yair as soon as his own case is cleared up.

"The attorney-general began working to prevent my appointment the day before I entered the job, and I did not want the public to interpret my recommendation to terminate his tenure as stemming from his actions against me," Ne'eman said, explaining why he had not asked that Ben-Yair be dismissed before.

"But many of his decisions on very fundamental matters have not stood the test of criticism by the public and the courts ... Only yesterday [Wednesday] the Supreme Court said on another matter [the decision not to indict MK Avner (Continued on Page 20)]

Ne'eman sets 'a desirable standard'

JUDICIAL experts praised Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman's decision to resign yesterday, but noted that this decision does not necessarily have to set a precedent for other ministers.

"This is certainly a significant step with respect to constitutional norms," said Prof. Mordchai Kremnitzer of Hebrew University, an expert in criminal law. "That the minister resigned on his own is praiseworthy, and very rare in Israeli political culture."

"[Ne'eman] set a desirable standard," agreed Prof. Asher Maoz, an expert in constitutional law from Tel Aviv University.

Maoz said Ne'eman's resignation was noteworthy not only because he did it on his own, but also because he did it at such an early stage of the process. The current legal norms, which were set by the High Court of Justice's ruling in the case of former minister Aryeh Deri and former deputy minister Raphael Pinhasi,

COMMENT

EVELYN GORDON

require resignation only after there has been a decision to indict, rather than at the start of an investigation.

Furthermore, he noted, by resigning, Ne'eman also gave up his parliamentary immunity. Though Ne'eman is not an MK, non-MKs who serve as ministers also enjoy this privilege as long as they occupy their ministries.

However, while both Maoz and Kremnitzer said they hoped Ne'eman's action would encourage other public figures to resign before being forced out by the High Court, they added that for other ministers, waiting until an indictment is ready before resigning is not unreasonable.

"The justice minister, as the person with ministerial responsibility for law enforcement, must behave with greater punctiliousness than other ministers," Kremnitzer explained.

Maoz added that he has met legal experts from abroad who say public figures should not even be required to resign upon being indicted, since they are legally presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Regarding another issue - whether the police and the State Attorney's Office behaved properly in ignoring the issue for four years, until Ne'eman became a minister and the appointment was challenged in the High Court of Justice - legal experts were divided.

Dr. Ron Shapira, a senior lecturer in criminal law at Tel Aviv University, said the police's decision not to pursue the allegations against Ne'eman until Martin Brown, the man who made them, had testified in the Deri trial, was reasonable. Had they begun questioning Brown

(Continued on Page 20)

Efforts continue to resolve Levy-Netanyahu crisis

THE efforts to resolve the crisis between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy continued late into the night yesterday, as Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and Levy aides labored to reach a compromise.

Levy, who is considering resigning, is expected to make his position clear at today's cabinet meeting. However, it was not clear last night whether Levy intends to attend the meeting or not.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who is also trying to reconcile between Netanyahu and Levy, yesterday met the prime minister and told him it was essential that Levy continue serving in the cabinet.

Sharon stressed the long friendship and alliance between himself and Levy, in what some interpreted as a hint that if Levy quits, Sharon might follow suit. Deputy Finance Minister David Magen, of Geshet, also said that if Levy resigns he would resign with him.

"It is vitally important that Levy continue as foreign minister and he must be provided with the suitable conditions to fulfill his duty," Sharon said, adding that he was convinced that a compromise will be found to enable Levy to stay in his job.

The crisis was triggered by Levy and Foreign Ministry officials feeling they were being ignored by the Prime Minister's Office, which was making all diplomatic moves by itself.

MICHAL YUDELMAN

Levy said he raised the issue in his talks with the prime minister on four different occasions and each time Netanyahu promised him the situation would not recur. However, this did not materialize.

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IAF blasts Hizbullah targets

Truce-monitoring committee meets

The five-nation truce-monitoring committee, meeting for the first time in south Lebanon yesterday, focused on how it was going to operate, leaving discussions on violations for later meetings.

Just six hours before the gathering at the UNIFIL headquarters in Nakura, the IAF blasted Hizbullah targets deep inside Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley. Striking in two waves, the aircraft targeted Hizbullah's radio station and ammunition dumps. There were no reports of casualties.

The US representative to the monitoring group, David Greenlee, flew in by helicopter from Cyprus. UNIFIL helicopters from the Freoch, Lebanese, and Syrian representatives from Beirut. Brig.-Gen. David Tzur, head of the IDF's liaison unit with foreign forces, drove from the Rosh Hanikra border crossing.

France's representatives on the committee are Foreign Ministry official Jean-Michel Gaussoit and Gen. Le Mesr Depas. Lebanon's is Col. Maher Tafil, head of army intelligence in south Lebanon, and Syria's named Staff Brigadier Adnan Balloul. The meeting lasted for three hours.

"The committee dealt with organizational and managerial topics only. The atmosphere was to the point and positive," said Tzur.

The IDF has reportedly prepared a list of what it says are violations

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

of the truce, brokered by the US following Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator for Lebanon, said only time would tell if the monitoring committee would be effective.

"I hope that the monitoring group will have the acumen and the wisdom to navigate its way to bring about some positive results," Lubrani said. "It has a clear mandate to look into complaints of both parties... It is a new instrument and it has to be given a chance to find its way."

He added that the contact between Israeli and Syrian representatives "is just a bonus, which we hope will be exploited."

Israel retaliated for this week's attacks, in which one soldier was killed, before dawn, hitting Hizbullah strongholds in Baalbek. The IDF spokesman said aircraft reported direct hits and that Hizbullah and Syrian gunners fired at the attacking jets. All aircraft returned safely to base, the spokesman said.

Security sources in Lebanon said F-16 fighter-bombers swept down on Baalbek and destroyed the transmission antennae of Hizbullah's Voice of the Oppressed radio. Two small houses,

apparently used by guards, were damaged. The second attack hit a nearby fuel storage tank, setting it alight.

Technicians switched to a backup transmitter and the Hizbullah radio station was back on the air by 8 a.m., security sources told AP.

A senior Hizbullah official charged that the air strikes were aimed at civilians. "Patience has its limits and our people will retaliate," said Sheikh Mohammed Yazbek. "Let the enemy know that the resistance will continue."

Hillel Kuttler adds: State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the monitoring group's inaugural meeting "is another step in the right direction."

Asked about the recent hostilities in the security zone, Burns acknowledged that while the US would "like to see an end to all fighting in southern Lebanon... that is not a realistic proposition."

While the panel monitors the cease-fire, the US is pressing for a long-range solution, Burns said.

"It's also important to deal with the larger reasons for the fighting," he said. "But it has not stopped and, we believe, will not stop until there can be political progress made in the negotiations. That's why we've put so much effort into those political discussions."



Palestinians demonstrate yesterday against a planned Israeli expropriation of land to build a new road near Rafiah in the Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

Gaza Hamas leaders allowed to go to Tulkarm to mediate with PA

GAZA Hamas leaders went to Tulkarm this week to mediate between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, after PA police shot a Hamas activist dead in clashes there last Friday.

The security services decided to allow the Hamas representatives to travel from Gaza to Tulkarm after PA President Yasser Arafat expressed concern about the worsening situation in the West Bank, following the torture death of a prison inmate in Nablus and the Tulkarm shooting.

The use of Hamas officials to calm down a potentially dangerous situation indicates heightened

JON IMMANUEL

cooperation between the PA and Hamas in Gaza, and an Israeli admission that Hamas is more than a terror group to be crushed. It also is a government gesture to Arafat, to show that it is not bent on his downfall, as some officials in the PA believe.

Hamas in Gaza was conspicuously not involved in protests or threats against the PA, after police shot the activist dead during a raid by Islamic activists on the Tulkarm jail. In return for its services as a responsible mediator, it

will undoubtedly demand the release of up to 600 Hamas prisoners, who are being held in PA jails without charges since the February-March suicide bombing attacks.

The Palestinian Council investigating committee stated yesterday that police definitely shot Ibrahim Hudeideh, 44, in the Tulkarm protests, contradicting PA police claims that he was shot by armed provocateurs among the protesters. Tayeb Abdel-Raheem, secretary-general of the PA, had even

said that three provocateurs collaborating with Israel were arrested.

Israel Radio's Arabic service said the four Gaza Hamas negotiators are Dr. Mahmoud Zuhair, Sayed Abu Musameh, Ahmad Fatah Dukhan, and Hani Shama, among the most prominent Islamic political leaders in the Strip.

Israeli Islamic leader Ibrahim Darwish met with Arafat yesterday, and the two discussed the future of the peace process. Darwish also called for the release of Hamas detainees being held without charges.

Livestock imports from territories banned

CHIEF veterinarian Arnon Shimshoni has banned the import of all livestock from the territories, following the discovery there of half a ton of sheep meat infected with brucellosis that was bound for sale within the Green Line.

The disease, which is also known as Malta or undulant fever, is transferable to humans, and as such, is of considerable cause for concern, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

"We are taking special precautions to prevent the spread of the disease to Israel and Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria," Shimshoni said yesterday.

DAVID HARRIS

A special team of experts, which was set up some time ago by the ministry to monitor livestock and plant imports from the territories, made the discovery at Turkemia, outside Hebron, on Wednesday.

While the disease was eradicated in Israel's cattle population some 15 years ago, Shimshoni fears the ovine form will become uncontrollable in the territories. Through May this year, there were 453 reported cases in humans in the territories, compared to 107 in the same period in 1995.

There is a direct correlation

between the increasing number of infections and Israel's withdrawal from the areas, claimed Shimshoni.

In recent months, a team of 30 veterinarians has examined 280,000 sheep and goats in Israel as part of a "national control program," he said.

In humans, the disease causes fever, chills, sweating, weakness, and aches lasting three to six months, but resultant chronic illnesses can last far longer.

Brucellosis has been detected in Israel and the territories since 1984, with over 85 percent of the cases found among the Arab population.

Kahalani raps Bassiouny for interfering in Khader controversy

BILL HUTMAN

INTERNAL Security Minister Avidgor Kahalani has charged Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny with wrongly interfering in Israel's internal affairs by trying to intervene in the dispute over the Palestinian Authority Council member's Jerusalem office.

Amir Glusgo, a senior aid to the minister, said that Kahalani informed Bassiouny that his intervention in the dispute, which was officially resolved yesterday, was unwelcome. Bassiouny was told "he had no place getting involved," Glusgo said.

Bassiouny, who was in contact with the Palestinian councilor, Hattem Abdel Khader, throughout the week-long dispute, was not available for comment.

Khader had said that Bassiouny played a central role in reaching the compromise.

Glusgo denied this, but confirmed that Bassiouny gave him the first indication that Khader wanted to resolve the dispute before it came to a head.

"We informed Khader of our demands, and that he had a choice of accepting them or facing police action," Glusgo said. "There were no negotiations. Khader was simply informed of the situation and given

a choice of whether to accept the minister's demands or not."

Glusgo said that when he met with Khader at the Hyatt Hotel on Tuesday, "I told him exactly what was being asked of him - that he must sign a statement saying that his office is private, and that it is not connected with the Palestinian Authority of PA Council, or his being a member of the PA Council." The statement, dated Wednesday but apparently not sent to the ministry until yesterday, is in the form of a one-paragraph letter from Khader to Kahalani.

"After your honor took out an order prohibiting me from using the office in my home in Beit Hanina, I herein clarify and state that the said office is not an official office and does not represent the Palestinian Authority, and does not represent the Palestinian Legislative Council, but is a private office," the letter states.

Ministry officials were unable to say whether a similar demand to cut off connections with the PA or close down would be made of the two or three other offices allegedly affiliated with the PA in Jerusalem, in accordance with the government ban on PA activity in the city.

Mubarak, Fahd: Land-for-peace still applies

RIYADH (AP) - King Fahd and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt agreed yesterday that the land-for-peace formula must remain the basis for a Middle East peace settlement, official Saudi sources said.

The sources said Fahd and Mubarak, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on a previously unannounced visit, held two hours of talks over lunch in the royal wing at King Abdul Aziz Airport in Jeddah. The talks were attended by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Defense Minister Prince Sultan, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

Mubarak, speaking to reporters on the flight home, said he and Fahd "completely agree on the importance that a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East."

Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency also quoted him as saying that his talks with Fahd touched on Israel's stalled peace talks with Syria and Lebanon.

Syria on Wednesday rejected Israel's latest peace overtures, saying an invitation by Netanyahu to resume peace talks offered "no glimpse of hope."

Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia was the latest in a flurry of top-level Arab contacts that ensued following Netanyahu's election.

In Jordan, Arab diplomatic sources said King Hussein plans to visit Saudi Arabia on Sunday for talks with King Fahd on ways to kick-start the peace process.

King Hussein, who was last in Saudi Arabia in February for talks with Crown Prince Abdullah, is also expected to discuss relations between their two kingdoms.

Relations between the two improved last year, five years after they fell out over Jordan's perceived tilt in favor of Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Clarification

THE news agency report on Al Haq's statement concerning the conviction of three members of the Palestinian security forces, published yesterday, included a number of inaccuracies. Al Haq did not say that the trial took place in secret or that the defendants were not represented by lawyers, and the organization did not call, as reported, for holding the senior officers in the case responsible for Mahmoud Jumayal's death.

Sharon: New settlements only after final status

DAVID HARRIS

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday he intends establishing new settlements in Judea and Samaria, but only after a final status

agreement has been signed with the Palestinians.

The settlements would only be set up outside the autonomous areas.

The locations being considered include the Jordan valley and the hills overlooking the coastal plain.

Sharon made his statement to reporters after meeting deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush.

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Travelers wait to check in at Ben-Gurion Airport, which handled more than 45,000 people yesterday. The airport has serviced more than four million people this year, a four percent increase over last year. (Shaul Rahamin)

Four remanded for prostitute's murder

BILL HUTMAN

FOUR Jerusalem residents were remanded yesterday for allegedly kidnapping and killing a prostitute two months ago.

Police told the court the four worked at the Exclusive Brothel in Talpote, where the prostitute also worked, and had murdered her after she got into a dispute with a client.

Sergei Danilov, 23, from Kiryat Hayovel, and Dimitri Goriev, 22, from Ramot, were remanded for 15 days. Oleg Poliakov, 25, from Kiryat Hayovel, and Alexander Melnick, 26, from Ramot, were remanded for 13 days.

During the night between June 7 and 8, after the client the woman argued with had left, the four allegedly began beating her. They then forced her into a car and beat her to death, police said.

The court forbade publication of

the woman's name, as her family had not yet been informed.

The woman's body was dumped in the Makhmesh area in the Judean Desert. About a month ago, the body was discovered by Arab residents, who informed the police.

Police said they had received information about the murder

soon after it took place, and had been conducting an undercover investigation.

The body found last month, however, was not immediately linked to the case.

On Tuesday night, detectives arrested the four suspects, who also worked at several other brothels in the city.

Police said the four have no previous criminal records.

Oman opens trade office here

OMAN has opened a trade office here, becoming the seventh Arab nation to establish a diplomatic presence.

Workers moved furniture into the suite in an elegant office tower in Tel Aviv yesterday, and representative Mohsan Balushi is to begin holding office hours on Sunday.

The move was welcomed as evidence that the peace process is continuing.

The Omani mission joins those of Egypt and Jordan, which have full embassies, and lower-level representations of Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Qatar.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said the agreement to exchange diplomats was reached in January.

The government sent its representative, Oded Ben-Haim, to Oman two weeks ago.

Palmor said Israel hoped to provide Oman with irrigation equipment, fertilizers, and agricultural know-how.

Oman's Sultan Qaboos has defended his country's ties with Israel, but says full diplomatic ties will only come once Israel has reached a final peace settlement with the Palestinians. (AP)

Two indicted in woman's murder

RAINE MARCUS

EFRAIM Tohami, of Moshav Argaman, and Sultan Bissan, of Jatta Gililit, were indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for the murder of Nuwal Abu Jabbar, 28, of Shidat. They were also charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Ahu Jabbar disappeared from her home in March, and her body was found some two months later in a field.

According to the charge sheet, Abu Jabbar, who was Tohami's lover, was shot to death with Bissan's rifle.

Bissan knew Tohami through his work as a guard at Argaman, while Abu Jabbar, who was divorced, was employed as a cleaning woman at Tohami's home.

One night in March, Abu Jabbar arrived at Tohami's home badly bruised, saying she

had been beaten by her father, and asked for refuge. Tohami drove her to the Beit She'an area. From there, Bissan took her further north.

Tohami and Bissan then allegedly plotted to kill her, because they decided she would be a burden and they could not conceal her from their families. She had also threatened to reveal her relationship with Tohami.

One night, either Bissan or Tohami, or both of them, allegedly took her to an area adjacent to the Jordanian border.

She asked to get out of the car, and one of the accused shot her once in the chest.

It is still not known who allegedly killed her, since each of the accused is blaming the other.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-terror equipment deal signed with Canada
Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry and Canadian Ambassador David Berger recently signed a memorandum of understanding on the purchase of anti-terrorism equipment. As a follow-up to the Sharm e-Sheikh conference, Canada will give Israel CAN\$700,000, which it will use to purchase the equipment from Canadian companies. *litm*

Day-care centers to make up for strike day
Na'amat and WIZO day-care centers have agreed to make up for the one-day nationwide strike on July 17. Na'amat is to keep its centers open today as compensation; WIZO has decided to refund the cost of a day's care. To get the refund, parents must apply directly to WIZO.

The initiative for arranging compensation came from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Department of Women's Employment and Day-Care Centers. *Esther Hecht*

Man found dead in river

The body of a man in his forties was found yesterday in Nahal Shapirim, near the Hiriya garbage dump. Police are trying to identify the man, and have asked for an autopsy. *litm*

Hundreds of Arabs found illegally in Tel Aviv

During July, 724 Arabs were found living in Tel Aviv without the proper permits, the Tel Aviv police district reported yesterday. Citations were given to 66 employers for employing workers without permits. *litm*

Meteor shower to be visible early Monday

THE current meteor shower will reach its peak on Monday morning, from 2 a.m. to sunrise.

Yigal Pat-el, head of the Israel Astronomy Association, said the meteor shower is caused by the Earth passing through cosmic dust left by a comet.

The last time a comet passed near Earth was in 1992. Dust particles are pulled in by Earth's gravity and enter the atmosphere at 70 km per second.

Due to the friction caused by atmospheric resistance, the particles are ignited and appear as "falling stars."

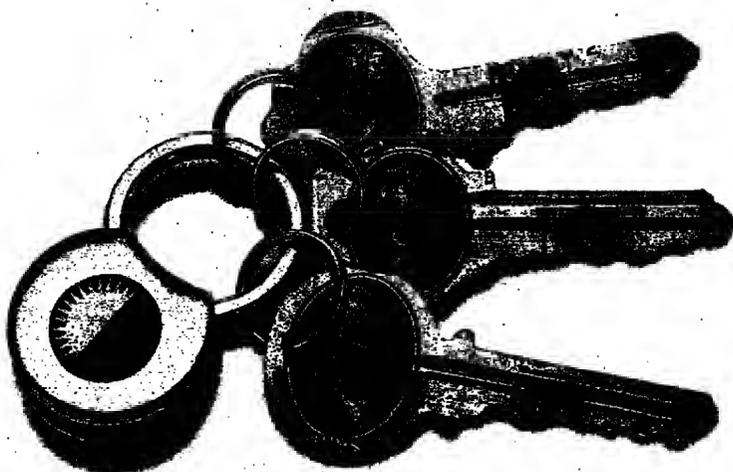
At the peak of the shower Monday, dozens of meteors will be falling. The meteors are completely burned by the time they reach some 50 km above the Earth's surface.

The association, in cooperation with the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel, is to hold an organized viewing. *(litm)*

LAURA KEIVE
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A justified resignation

IRONICALLY, the only person to emerge with a modicum of dignity from the decision to open a criminal investigation against Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is the suspect himself.

Ne'eman's decision to resign immediately is a welcome change from the usual spectacle of ministers, MKs and other public officials clinging to their posts with all their might, no matter how grave the suspicions against them. Former interior minister Aryeh Deri and former deputy minister Raphael Pinhasi, for instance, refused to resign even after they were indicted, waiting until the High Court of Justice ruled that they must quit. Pinhasi, still facing indictment, is now waiting for the High Court to decide whether he may serve as chairman of the Knesset House Committee, rather than doing the proper thing and declining such a sensitive post while he remains under a cloud.

Ne'eman's decision was undoubtedly influenced by the pending High Court petition against his continued tenure as minister, as Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision to investigate him weakens his position in court. However, it is by no means a foregone conclusion that the court would have ruled against him. Many other ministers have served out their tenures despite police investigations - including, to name only a few, Deri (who was forced to resign only after then attorney-general Yosef Harish decided to indict him), former housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and former transport minister Yisrael Kessar. Nor is this necessarily unreasonable, given that many such investigations end without an indictment - as did both Ben-Eliezer's and Kessar's. A man is legally presumed innocent until proven guilty, not merely until the police decide to investigate him.

However, the position of justice minister is an especially sensitive one, since this minister is responsible for the country's law enforcement network. A justice minister must be above all suspicion. By recognizing this fact, and resigning his post without waiting to see whether the High Court would force him out, Ne'eman has undoubtedly raised the standard of behavior of public officials in Israel.

Unfortunately, the behavior of the police and the State Attorney's Office was less satisfactory. The allegation that Ne'eman tried to bully a witness in the Deri trial into changing his testimony was first made to the police by the witness himself four years ago. In all that time, however, neither the police nor the State Attorney's

Office bothered to investigate the allegation. Only two months ago, after journalist Yoav Yitzhak raised the issue in his petition to the High Court against Ne'eman's appointment, did Ben-Yair decide to begin a preliminary inquiry, which he yesterday decided to expand into a full-fledged police investigation.

At the initial hearing on the petition, the justices expressed astonishment at Ben-Yair's statement - made in response to the petition - that such a serious charge left him "no choice" but to order an inquiry. In that case, they demanded, why was the inquiry not begun four years ago, instead of only after Yitzhak petitioned the High Court?

One is left with the unpleasant feeling that the whole issue would never have been investigated at all had Yitzhak not filed his petition - which, if these allegations are as grave as Ben-Yair says, would have been a serious dereliction of duty. And yet, one is forced to hope that simple dereliction is indeed the explanation, because the alternative is even more unsavory: That the allegation was neglected at the time because both police and prosecutors considered it baseless, but that now, because of the public attention which has been focused on the issue, one or both of these bodies feel obligated to make a show of pursuing it - whatever the harm to the subject of the investigation.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not escape unscathed from the incident, either. His refusal to nix Ne'eman's appointment on the basis of what was then unsupported allegation was certainly proper. However, Yitzhak's petition was filed several hours before the Knesset confirmed Ne'eman's appointment, and the initial hearing was held the next day. It would therefore have cost him little to postpone Ne'eman's swearing-in until after the hearing, to give the court a chance to either okay or bar the appointment.

By failing to do so, Netanyahu gave the impression that he rammed the appointment through solely to forestall a court injunction, knowing that the court was much less likely to overturn an extant appointment than to prevent one from being made. This impression would probably soon have been forgotten had Ben-Yair decided not to investigate Ne'eman, since the court would have then retroactively okayed the appointment. However, the opening of the investigation and Ne'eman's subsequent resignation leaves Netanyahu with an embarrassment he could easily have avoided by waiting that extra 24 hours.

The microbe from Mars

THE excited international reaction to NASA's claim to have verified the existence of extraterrestrial life is understandable. From philosophers, visionaries and scientists down to ordinary folk, it has always been universally understood that discovering "we are not alone" will change forever the course of human destiny.

It's hard to be a party-pooper amid the general celebrations, but the announcement on Wednesday that the meteorite from Mars contained such evidence was oddly disappointing - and not at all because it appears so flimsy. It also rang warning bells among those inclined to be skeptical of instantly gratifying media events. The international fuss that surrounded the announced discovery of cold nuclear fusion some years ago remains a stern reminder that scientific blunders can be as astounding as scientific breakthroughs.

Thus, there is a nagging suspicion that NASA may have jumped the gun on the universal life debate. The evidence that will finally abolish the egocentric theory that Earth life is unique remains elusive and literally microscopic, gleaned from a two-kilogram rock, 4.5 billion years old, that is "believed" to have traveled from Mars for 16 million years before reaching us. Its molecular traces "resemble" fossilized bacteria and have chemical compounds that "might have been" deposited by microbes living in a damp Martian climate. Those quotation marks veil a lot of ifs and buts.

This trace is as far from a present day virus on Earth as the virus is from the advanced telepathic Vorlon civilization familiar to fans of the *Babylon 5* science fiction series. If that's as far

as life traces in space have got, it will be a few more billion years before what remains of the human race will need to roll out the welcome mat for visitors.

The best that can be said for NASA's discovery is that it may inject new life into the moribund space program, as officials yesterday indicated when they predicted an all-out drive for a proper exploration of Mars. Most great scientific discoveries have begun with a concept of genius or vision, rather than with hard evidence, which followed only later. Thus it was with gravitation, evolution, and relativity.

The space program needs such vision to allow the plodding hunt for evidence to move forward. It has become too bogged down in recent years with technology and limited aims as boring as a debate on public transportation, allowing equally plebeian arguments about money and politics to hamper it even further. While the poor on this planet have needs that must be addressed, the destiny of our distant descendants must also be considered and that destiny is undoubtedly, at least in part, among the stars. The search for proof of the universality of life is central to our future advancement.

For the moment, it will suffice to keep searching just for life. The quest for intelligent life is another matter entirely. Of the billions of life forms on earth, only one has been proved to be self aware and capable of investigating all the others. Yet when we look at the wretched conflicts, misery and barbarism that remain the lot of that species, we can only conclude that the search for intelligent life in space should be left until we can first be sure there is intelligent life on Earth.



An education in violence

SHMUEL KATZ

TWO weeks ago Yasser Arafat responded to the latest Israeli demand that he do "more" to put an end to terrorism. What is he expected to do? Go out with a gun looking for putative terrorists? Surely not. There are many channels for his influence, but among them there should certainly be a public education campaign - in mosques, at public meetings, in public print, on radio and television. Everybody should know that Arafat has turned his back on terrorism.

And so, a few days after that latest demand, made to him personally by Foreign Minister David Levy, Arafat's response was delivered in Gaza. It was an eloquent eulogy, a veritable hymn of praise to the memory of Yihye Ayyash, renowned Hamas killer of Jews.

Ayyash was a martyr, a hero, Arafat told the cheering crowd. Ayyash and his comrades, all heroes, all martyrs. It was practically identical with the speech Arafat made after Ayyash was killed by Israeli forces.

In every one of his speeches (some public, some "leaked"), Arafat has demonstrated how he is discouraging violence. In a mosque in Johannesburg, South Africa, he proclaimed (or envisaged) the jihad; in Stockholm early this year, at a dinner with 40 Arab diplomats he described (expansively) what would be done to the State of Israel (dismantlement) and its Jewish inhabitants (only dispersal).

What do all these pronouncements amount to: if not a deliberate education campaign - not against but in favor of terror? Who can gauge the number of Jews who are likely to be killed by enthusiastic young Arabs thus encouraged and influenced by the rhetoric of their leader, and by the

force of the "heroic" example of Ayyash and his like?

Would it not be more expedient from Arafat's point of view to stop making such blatant pro-terrorist speeches? Why does he encourage widespread suspicion in Israel and elsewhere, concerning his real designs? Surely he could assuage the concerns of at least some Israelis about his supposed "com-

mitted to peace?"

Arafat, however, has a problem. First and foremost, he must consider his own Arab "constituency," both Palestinian and nationwide. These people have had it drummed into their minds all their lives that the Jews have no right to exist as a nation, that the State of Israel is due for destruction, that it is a mitzva to kill Jews. Any suggestion that weapons for achieving those ends are openly being relinquished might have dire consequences for Arafat, who has many enemies and, no doubt, many false friends too.

To Arafat's good fortune, the Rabin-Peres-Aloni regime, which after all was working toward fulfillment of Arafat's dream of a Palestinian state, did not evince or unduly encourage negative reactions to Arafat's rhetoric. Shimon Peres fatuously even pretended to accept Arafat's learned explanation that jihad meant "peaceful development."

WHAT IS disturbing is that the new government has also (so far) Weizman - where Peres had failed - to release the two Arab murderers. An appeal to the Supreme Court against this decision has been rejected on the astounding grounds that such a decision could further Israel's diplomatic interests.

What diplomatic interests? To give further encouragement to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's evident credo that murderers of Jews should not be punished?

This is a field in which Mubarak has played a special role. In October 1985, at Ras Burka in Sinai, seven Israeli tourists - three adults and four children - were murdered by an Egyptian soldier, aided by a group of his comrades. He simply fired into the group. Two died on the spot. Five were wounded and bled to death on the ground. The remaining members of the tourist group - among them a physician - were prevented at gun point by the murderer's comrade from rendering any help to the five wounded.

A report of the incident was

brought to Mubarak, who dismissed it as a "matter of no importance."

It was later reported that the man who had done the shooting had been jailed. It was also reported that he died in prison. His accomplices were never put on trial.

Not long after that came the episode of the *Achille Lauro*, an Italian ship hijacked by a group of Fatah members. The boat was due to land at Ashdod and there, disembarking with all speed, the hijackers planned to rampage through the town, shooting at all and sundry in the crowded streets. The plan miscarried, but not before the hijackers succeeded in killing one Jew on the ship, an elderly wheelchair-bound American named Leon Klinghoffer. They then heaved him, in his wheelchair, over the side into the sea.

Arrested by the Egyptian police, the hijackers were not tried in Egypt. Neither were they extradited to Italy (for hijacking the boat) nor to America for killing Klinghoffer. They were spirited out of Egypt in a plane destined for the terrorists' haven of Algeria. The aircraft, however, was intercepted and brought down by a US Air Force plane.

It was then discovered that the influential Egyptian who had had the hijacking murderers freed and had placed a getaway plane at their disposal was President Mubarak.

Now, with the help of both the president and prime minister of Israel, Hosni Mubarak, by securing the release of the two women murderers, has added another notable notch to his tally.

The writer's biography of Ze'ev Jabotinsky has been published in English.

What is Arafat's persistent inflammatory propaganda if not terror? And why has Netanyahu failed to react to it?

mitment to peace?"

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A report of the incident was

All you need is luck

MARK A. HELLER

WITH the announcement that Eli Suissa of Shas will be the next religious affairs minister, the arduous task of putting together a government has finally come to an end, and the country can breathe a sigh of relief.

The resolution of this issue was no small matter. Many of us have been hanging on tenterhooks for weeks, waiting to learn which party would get to use our taxes first to find jobs for its otherwise unemployable yeshiva graduates.

Now there is a decision, and it is eminently reasonable: Shas and the National Religious Party will have two alternating 13-month terms (assuming the government survives for 52 months), but each minister will be balanced by a deputy minister from the other party and two directors-general, one from each party.

In short, the pork-barrel (we really need a better term for this) will be divided evenly, and everyone will be satisfied. But what is truly gratifying is the way in which the prime minister determined that this decision would be made. It seems (though it hasn't been officially confirmed) that the order was determined by lottery. Somebody - it was originally supposed to be Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, but he dropped out - was reportedly instructed to open a Bible at random and begin reading until he encountered the letter *mem* or *shin*. If the former, then the NRP (whose Hebrew acronym is *Mafdal*) would go first; if the latter, Shas would get the nod.

POSTSCRIPTS

IT TAKES a dumb thief to leave behind the scene of a crime an incriminating fingerprint. It takes a really dumb thief to leave behind a finger.

Rafael Santiago, 34, of Miami, was suspected of breaking into an apartment to steal a shotgun. He fled the house without taking anything after he shot off a piece of his thumb when the weapon discharged.

The thumb was recovered by

Now many critics think this is the wrong way to make decisions, even on minor issues like foreign policy, not to speak of truly momentous problems like the management of the Religious Affairs Ministry. These intellectuals prefer some abstract, rarified construct called "rational analysis," involving all kinds of pre-

left the "Na, Nach, Nachman" mantra of Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav inscribed on the Jordanian countryside. Secondly, the prime minister's economic policy has been little short of miraculous. Inspired by the magic of supply-side theory, it has managed to cut social support programs and raise mass transit,

Too many of us are blind to the proven virtues of instinct, insight, and reliance on the supernatural

tious exercises like proper staff work, systematic elaboration of alternatives, collection and classification of relevant information, assessment of risks and opportunities, critical discussion and a host of other distractions.

BUT THESE critics are simply blind to the proven virtues of instinct, insight, and especially reliance on supernatural guidance.

For example, the prime minister has had a series of stunningly successful trips to foreign capitals, and he will certainly be a welcome visitor to other Arab countries in the near future. Despite the fact that the entire professional foreign affairs establishment has been systematically excluded from these efforts, the way was paved by more effective forces, like the Israeli tourists who

seems particularly out of step. Undoubtedly influenced for the worse by his long sojourn at an institute of technology in Colorado, he has decided not to establish a unit in his ministry to investigate UFOs. Unless he sees the light, his days are probably numbered.

But if he and the rest of his colleagues do get with the plan, the way to a happy resolution of all our problems will immediately become clear.

Should we redeploy from Hebron? Flip a coin. How should we deal with southern Lebanon? Read the entrails of a chicken. How can we end the slaughter on the highways? Give every driver a little psalm-book and five-fingered *hamza* to hang on his dashboard. How to ensure the wisdom and goodness of public policy? Send a crew to every government building to paint the window-frames blue.

In fact, this system is so promising that we should really extend it beyond the behavior of governments to the way they are chosen. So here is an original suggestion. At the next election for prime minister, we should simply let a few saintly old men determine who is the best candidate and convey their decision to the rest of us with amulets, charms, and blessings. After all, didn't our grandmothers tell us that all you need is luck?

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

water, and electricity prices, while finding budgets for settlements and infrastructure in the territories and providing conditions and benefits at the director-general level for his advisers.

Even on the most sensitive questions of Palestinian-Israeli relations, the superiority of irrational analysis is obvious from the decision to close down Palestinian councillor Hattem Khader's living room in Beit Hanina. This persuades everyone to accept Israel's position on Jerusalem, while avoiding the messiness and embarrassing complications of shutting Orient House.

The record is indisputable, and given these successes, other ministers who seem reluctant to go along would be well-advised to mend their errant ways. Science Minister Ze'ev Begin

SHIPS WERE alerted and bomb disposal experts were scrambled to defuse a "bomb" bobbing about in Hong Kong harbor, but it turned out to be an enormous sausage.

Marine police and fire services swung into action when a man reported the suspected floating bomb off Stonecutters Island. "Police later confirmed the explosive-like object was a big sausage," a Marine Department spokesman said. It was wrapped in white plastic and sealed at each end with a metal ring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GERIATRIC APPROACH

Sir, - In "Love and sex: two poor motives for marriage" (July 31), Dr. Sol Gordon gives very sound advice - if you are looking for a business partner. "Friendship, character, humor, steady income" - yes, I'd want those ingredients in any man with whom I wanted to start a restaurant or share a law office or a dental practice. But if I wanted a man to share my life with - in other words, to make life worth living, then love and sex would certainly have to be two of the brightest lights in our emotional firmament.

I fear that, in Dr. Gordon's ultra-rational embrace, Shakespeare's sonnets would be reduced to recipes for longevity.

Today's genuinely tragic divorce rate in Israel has not evaporated as a result of focusing on something so "evanescent" as love, but from the fear of and/or the inability to love. Young people get married today because of societal and parental pressure and the need for security, i.e. knowing what the future holds (as if you can ever know) - not because of love and sex. When James Baldwin once said, "People fear love more than they fear death," I am afraid he was right. Dr. Gordon is wrong. He has neither his ear to the ground nor his hand on the pulse of young people's needs in 1996. Dr. Gordon's approach is light years too geriatric.

ROBERTA RESNICK

REPORTING THE NEWS

Sir, - I believe that most serious followers of the news are of the opinion that news services such as Reuter are supposed to be reasonably objective in reporting the news. Regrettably, I must state that Reuter is practically acting as a propaganda machine against Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

הקדמה מן האלטר

No laughing matter

EHUD BARAK

IN the third month of what threatens to be a tempestuous term, the government this week exhibited ample and perplexing proof of how out of touch with reality it is. As a member of the opposition I'm tempted to say it's encouraging. But as a citizen of Israel, I'm worried.

Government is no business for amateurs. Nor is it the continuation of an election campaign by other means. It isn't about dominating the media or endless coalition squabbling or irresponsible lashing out at the military and the civil service.

Government is about leadership, decision-making, agenda-setting and responsibility, fundamental qualities that have been conspicuously absent from this government so far.

As they say, you can't fool all of the people all of the time. And the public may soon be calling this government's bluff.

Netanyahu is supposedly holding a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority. He is supposedly offering a dialogue with Syria. Rumor has it he is actually conducting a dialogue with his foreign minister, David Levy. And he is engaged in a perpetual dialogue with the media. But the only dialogue he and his deputies seem reluctant to initiate is a heart-to-heart one with reality.

If this weren't my government, to paraphrase an election slogan, we'd be laughing. But it is — and we can't afford to laugh.

The outrageous and totally unfounded accusation this week by the Likud's Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, that the upper echelons of the IDF

and other security officials are "gambling" and collaborating, providing professional justification for the Labor government's peace policy warrants severe condemnation; more important, it epitomizes the ethos of this government — an evasion of reality and a refusal to accept facts that do not jibe with ideology or dogmas.

The government's talking, but it isn't governing

Would Landau have made such a comment had the military, for example, said it would not go along with a decision to withdraw from the Golan Heights? Would he have supported the chief of the IDF's intelligence branch had he said, for example, in 1993 that "Israel should not pull out of Gaza?" Would Landau have called the commander of the Central Command a "gambler" had he stood up last week and said he would not be responsible for redeployment in Hebron? I suspect not.

Landau's comment showed a ruling party not ruling, a legislator demonstrating profound ignorance of civil-military relations, an ideologue detached from reality.

WHEN I was chief of staff I remarked that from a military point of view even during peace Israel should hold onto the Golan Heights, and that the IDF should remain there. It was construed as

a political position, an opinion. In fact, I presented what was the best professional estimation I, as a soldier, could provide — and I was required to make my position clear.

But I qualified the remark by adding that the ultimate decision would be made, exclusively, by the political echelons which, in turn, were advised to solicit the best ongoing professional assessments from military, intelligence, economic and international experts.

This very basic tenet of civil-military relations in a democracy eludes Landau. The military is expected to provide its expertise. It has done so under successive governments since the 1948 armistice talks in Rhodes, through 1956 and even during the Camp David talks in 1979.

Hardly surprising was Netanyahu's lame and subdued reaction to Landau's off-the-wall comment. Netanyahu didn't fail his first real leadership test. He simply didn't show up. Hopefully he will show up to deal with Hebron, further redeployment in the West Bank, final-status negotiations with the Palestinians and serious negotiations with Syria, all issues he was elected to handle.

The power of government isn't the spoils of election victory, but a contract with the public. It derives directly from the people and is given in trust for safekeeping.

A government cannot interpret reality as it wishes, say what it wants and act capriciously. If it does, it isn't governing.

The writer, a former chief of staff and foreign minister, is a Labor MK.



Risk-taking recommended

AMOTZ ASA-EL

MOST leaders wouldn't risk war with an enemy more formidable than they are. Most people would be wary of getting romantically involved with a partner far richer, better-looking or smarter than themselves. And most investors would rather not risk exposure to the whims of obscure shares, inflationary bonds or weather-sensitive commodities.

Risk, though not inherently unnatural for humans, is still largely abnormal. Those who take it are likely to do so as a lesser of two evils rather than as a way of life. Most lives, in fact — individual or organizational — are continuous, often Sisyphean, exercises in minimizing risk.

But sometimes risk is imperative, as the previous government tried to persuade us, promoting its controversial peace process amid a general atmosphere of gambling exemplified by lucrative TV game shows, pro-casino lobbying, and Ministry of Education decisions taken by lottery.

And yet risk has not only failed to assume the mystique that some have tried to attach to it; it has in fact succumbed to an (equally risky) cult of risk-aversion, worshipped with equal enthusiasm by labor, business and government.

Workers in over-stuffed state monopolies prefer to stay put and not risk being among the estimated 10-20 percent who stand to lose their jobs in the wake of privatization, rather than set their sights on the sharply higher incomes which await the remaining 80-90 percent of them under private owners.

Business executives — like the leaders of the insurance industry now facing trial for alleged price fixing, or the Israel Electric Corporation which last month raised prices without informing the public — prefer to concoct cartels and hide price tags rather than risk looking competition and customers straight in the eye.

And this week senior government officials said they want to leave the largest-scale privatizations "for later," rather than risk full-blown confrontation with workers in monopolies like the Electric Corporation who, when provoked, are prone to generate massive economic disorder.

Yet all these people will ultimately learn that they must take the risks they are trying to avoid,

whether out of unscrupulousness, cowardice, or both.

Cartelists, like those insurers, will understand the gravity of their mistake not because of the pathetically light sentences which reportedly await them, but because eventually foreign firms will arrive here and sweep them and their anti-economic practices out of the marketplace.

Arrogant, public-sector labor leaders will also at the end of the day realize the futility of their cause, as the government is already running out of money with which to finance their bloated wages, perks, and pensions.

And Prime Minister Netanyahu, should he fail to deliver on his election promises of economic reformation, will have to fathom the electoral price of the economic risk-aversion which so far seems to guide him.

Yes, resolute and swift anti-monopolistic activity means confrontation. But that is unavoidable, affordable, and maybe even desirable.

IN THIS respect, the previous government's diplomatic path set a precedent worth following: If a democratically elected leadership has a belief, it should go for it — whether it means (Rabin) shaking Arafat's hand, or, in Netanyahu's case depriving, for instance, the Electric Corporation's 13,000 (!) employees of their monopolistic power to send the public fat monthly bills while at the same time using up free electricity in their own homes.

Netanyahu actually has far more moral right, and is at less political risk, in charging ahead with his economic designs than his predecessors had with their regional maneuvering.

Labor failed to tell the voters it would legitimize the PLO and establish a de facto Palestinian state; Netanyahu has declared time and again that he will sell companies en masse, break up

monopolies and abolish stifling regulations.

Obviously the government should avoid its predecessor's great mistake of implementing a controversial policy without having a broad political base.

But rather than compromise his goals, Netanyahu should realize that he has some economic allies outside the coalition — most notably MKs Yossi Beilin, Amnon Rubinstein, and Avraham Poraz — just as he has alongside him populists, primarily Foreign Minister David Levy, who are likely to be a thorn in the side of any, rightist economicists.

And, indeed, he can pluck his economic plans out of conventional partisan boundaries.

Never mind strike threats in places like El Al, the ports, Egged or Bezeq. Those who would shut off Mr. and Mrs. Israel's lights, hock their cars' way or ground their airplanes will soon learn that the public isn't on their side. If Netanyahu allows just one such combative union to wage an indefinite strike, he can ultimately bring it to its knees and teach others a lesson they will never forget.

Times have changed. Labor activists may have been admired in a distant, socialist past. In today's Israel, however, they have become anathema. It is the droves of enterprising risk-takers in numerous high-tech start-ups anywhere between Haifa and Ness Ziona who are the young generation's role models.

Metaphorically speaking, Netanyahu's choice lies between adopting the spirit of these up-and-comers who embody Israel's economic future or surrendering to the labor activists who echo our socialist past.

In the long run, opting for the former will prove a far smaller risk.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Scared of the 'stranger'

MICHAEL B. OREN

SINCE being appointed the prime minister's chief foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold has been the target of snide verbal attacks, mainly in the Hebrew press (and also on these pages by Uri Avnery).

A recent banner headline in *Yedioth Aharonot's* weekend feature supplement described Gold's new job as *gadot alav* (too big for him).

Though clearly at odds with Gold's conservative views, his critics have focused less on his policies than on his alleged lack of knowledge of the Arab world and his supposed inexperience in diplomatic and strategic affairs.

Most relentlessly, however, Gold has been dismissed as "a new immigrant" and, as such, a stranger to Israeli society.

As is often the case, these charges reveal far more about their authors than about their target. For one, they exhibit a startling lack of respect for the facts. More perniciously, they reveal an abiding prejudice against American immigrants.

The claims against Gold's academic and professional credentials are easily refuted. He holds three degrees in Middle Eastern politics from Columbia University and spent a decade as a senior policy analyst at Tel Aviv University's prestigious Jaffee Center, working with Israel's top military strategists.

Moreover, throughout much of that period, Gold was one of a select group of Israelis who met secretly with prominent Arab figures from Morocco to Qatar.

No longer the provincial sheikhs of the past, these Arab leaders are today products of New England prep schools and Ivy League universities — precisely the background Gold brings to his post. Such qualifications notwithstanding, Gold is still deemed deficient by his detractors, and for one immutable reason: his birthplace. He is "alien."

Never mind that the framers of

the Oslo agreement, Yair Hirschfeld and Ruo Pundak, had no prior experience in negotiation, or that the agreement's Labor champions, Yossi Beilin and Uri Savir, are neither proficient in Arabic nor experts in Middle Eastern affairs. (Nor, for that matter, are they experts in military matters.) The important thing is that they are native Israelis.

US) have traditionally been deprecated here. They are dismissed as wide-eyed idealists, superficial sentimentalists, dupes.

Among the stereotype's principal perpetrators is Israel TV, which regularly depicts Americans as hysterical airheads.

For many Israelis, American-accented Hebrew is virtually synonymous with a lack of serious-

ness, with gullibility.

Unlike biases against other immigrant groups — Moroccans, for example, or Ethiopians — which are ethnic or racial in origin, the bias against Americans is purely cultural. It stems from a deep-seated ambivalence toward all things American: the craze to emulate every facet of American culture from McDonald's to *Pulp Fiction*, while at the same time deriding that culture.

Israelis at times seem afraid of America, as intimidated by its garishness as they are by its lure. And "Ameriphobia" seems especially severe when it comes to American immigrants.

This is the only immigrant community to have come here out of volition, often sacrificing higher standards of living. This is the community that has realized the ultimate Zionist ideal.

Yet instead of being admired, Americans are popularly viewed

The press's attack on Dore Gold reflects an abiding Israeli prejudice against American immigrants

as naive, if not foolish freeriders. And the perception of an American who has rejected the less laudable aspects of his culture in favor of authentic Jewish values — an American such as Gold, who became observant as a young man — is far harsher.

Why shouldn't he, like any public figure, be judged on the merits of his performance?

Those merits may be debated, as they undoubtedly will be, by pundits from both left and right. To prejudice Gold, however, on the basis of false allegation and sheer prejudice is not only unfair to Gold himself. In terms of the public interest, it is counterproductive.

The kind of basic cultural stereotyping the press has been engaging in ought to shame anyone who considers himself an honest journalist. More than that, it is an affront to all of us who made the choice Gold did, moving from America to Israel.

The writer is the managing director of SuperStudio, a Jerusalem-based division of SoftKey International.

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SUSPICIOUS OBJECT? NOTIFY THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!

Hundreds die as Russia pounds Grozny rebels

SEPARATIST rebels besieging government buildings in Grozny yesterday pushed back Russian armored columns advancing toward the city center during the third day of heavy street battles in the Chechen capital.

On the eve of President Boris Yeltsin's inauguration, the fighting has killed 70 Russian servicemen and wounded about 300, according to the latest figures from the military command. It estimated rebel casualties at more than 200 dead.

Separatist spokesmen said several hundred Russian troops have been killed, and that the Russians have lost 80 armored vehicles, nine helicopters and an airplane, Interfax news agency said.

The federal command confirmed the loss of numerous helicopters and armored vehicles, but denied rebel claims that a fighter jet was shot down over Grozny yesterday.

Russian troops backed by helicopter gunships and fighter jets pounded the rebel positions in Grozny as the separatists resisted Moscow's fierce counter-offensive in a stand-off that has left neither of the warring sides in clear control of the

News agencies
GROZNY

battered city.

A third day of bloody battles left more bodies lying on the streets.

Officials said the army was flushing out rebels who stormed into the city on Tuesday, seizing many areas in a show of strength that followed weeks of Russian attacks against Chechen villages.

The rebels, who felt betrayed by President Boris Yeltsin after the collapse of peace agreements reached during his re-election campaign, launched their offensive just days ahead of today's Kremlin inauguration ceremony.

Heavy casualties, embarrassing for Yeltsin after trumpeting pre-election peace initiatives, have been reported on both sides.

Russian army reinforcements, whose convoys rumbled into Grozny overnight, guarded the headquarters of the pro-Moscow government after blocking an attempt by rebels to seize the buildings.

But Itar-Tass news agency, whose correspondent is among a group of

civilians holed up in the compound, said fighting erupted again yesterday after rebels returned Russian fire.

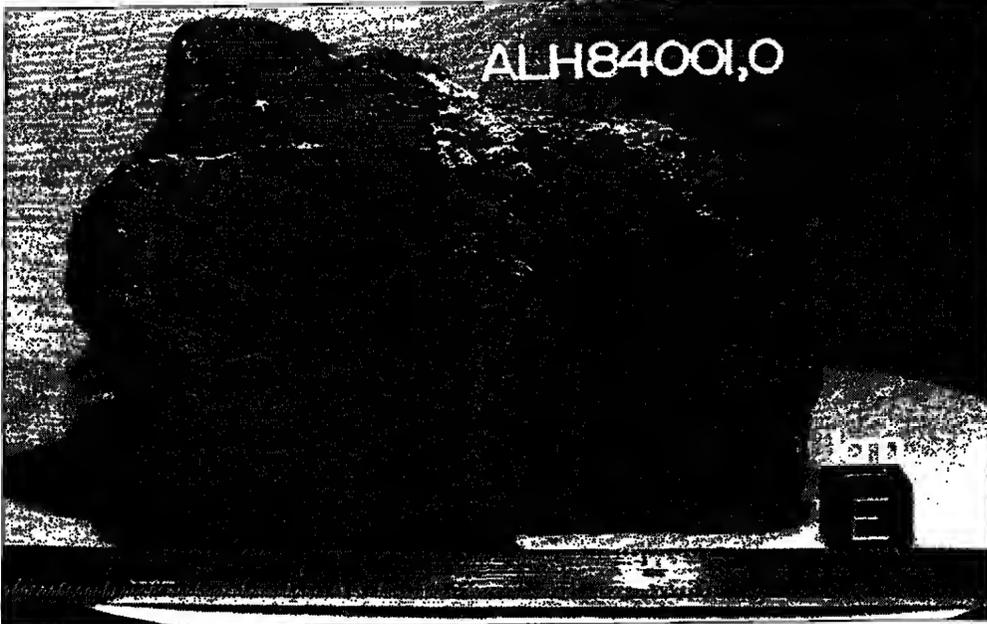
Helicopter gunships unleashed attacks on suspected rebel positions elsewhere in Grozny and SU-25 fighter jets struck at targets in the suburbs, Interfax news agency quoted its correspondent at the scene as saying.

Separatist information chief Movladi Udugov later told Reuters by telephone that the rebels had shot down one of the planes over the western district of Chernorechye. No independent confirmation was immediately available.

The rival sides gave contradictory accounts of the battles and of casualties. Both sides tend to underestimate their own losses and exaggerate the casualties of their opponents.

More than 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since Moscow sent troops to Chechnya in December 1994 to crush the region's bid for independence.

The rebels' biggest offensive in five months was masterminded by field commander Shamil Basayev, who led a hostage-taking raid on southern Russia last year.



The first potential evidence of extraterrestrial life was discovered in a sample taken from this 1.9-kg. Martian meteorite named ALH 84001, which was discovered in Antarctica. An unmanned Pathfinder spacecraft is due to be launched in December and will arrive on Mars on July 4 1997 where it will carry out more experiments to find signs of life. (Reuters)

NASA plans robust Martian exploration program

News agencies
WASHINGTON

ELECTRIFIED by research suggesting that Mars may once have harbored life, America's space agency is gearing up for a scientific assault on the red planet and inviting the world to help out.

Daniel Goldin, who heads NASA, yesterday said he was calling on the international science community to offer suggestions and guidance for a "robust program of exploration" of Mars.

But the next immediate step in the search for life on Mars could be a trip to the ice fields of Antarctica, according to NASA scientist Everett Gibson, who studied the meteorite that may prove the key to confirming the presence of extraterrestrial life.

Field collectors in the Antarctic unearthed the 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite from Mars that showed evidence of ancient, microscopic fossils, and of NASA's Johnson Space Center said on Wednesday.

Everett said these South Pole explorations could yield more good scientific specimens.

"The effort that's going on in the Antarctic field collecting programme is very modest, but its returns have been outstanding," he said, noting the program had delivered more than 10,000 samples for scientists to study, without the prohibitive cost of a lunar or Mars mission.

Two American spacecraft, a lander and an orbiter, were planned for launch this fall, and

Goldin said eight more craft - two every other year - will rocket toward Mars within a decade.

It is too late to modify hardware on the spacecraft to be launched this year, but Goldin said the later missions could be revised to take into account the new Mars data.

President Clinton said he would hold a space summit in November to "discuss how America should pursue answers" to questions prompted by the Mars research, and Goldin said the conference would include international scientists.

"I intend the world space leadership to work with us on this," Goldin said.

The announcement that there was evidence of early life on Mars sent an energizing jolt through the government and scientific community.

Dr. Neal Lane of the US National Science Foundation said the new evidence "reignites the excitement of discovery and pioneering spirit which motivates all science."

Carl Sagan, the Cornell University scientist most closely linked in the popular mind with the search for extraterrestrials, called the research "the most provocative and evocative

piece of evidence for life beyond Earth." He said if the results are proven "it could be a turning point in human history."

Louis D. Friedman, director of the Planetary Society, said implications of the Mars results "reach beyond science to all aspects of human life."

"For all our history, we have wondered if life forms are possible on other worlds," he said. "Now, for the first time, we have scientific evidence to begin to answer this question."

A NASA-backed team formally presented what it considered to be evidence of ancient microbial life on Mars at a news conference Wednesday.

David McKay of the Johnson Space Center, leader of the research team, said minute gold-colored particles inside a meteorite from Mars harbored chemical and organic evidence that bacteria-sized organisms lived and thrived on the red planet 3.6 billion years ago.

The researchers also found tiny sausage-shaped particles that McKay said he was interpreting as fossilized microbes because, though smaller, they resemble ancient bacteria found in Earth rocks.

All this evidence, gathered from tests on particles a billionth the size of a pinhead, McKay said, suggests "the simplest explanation is that they are the remains of early Martian life."

Yeltsin to be inaugurated today amid health fears

MOSCOW (AP) - Boris Yeltsin begins his second term as Russia's president today in an unprecedented Kremlin inauguration that aides say will be impressive but not ostentatious.

The ceremony has been kept brief and simple, they said, with an eye to keeping costs down. The trimmed-down plans also have raised questions, however, about Yeltsin's obvious ill health and stamina.

The festive mood - which Moscow has tried to boost with banners around the capital wishing Yeltsin well - could be dampened by the new round of fighting in Chechnya.

Yeltsin is Russia's first democratically elected president, and although this is his second term, the inauguration is the first since Russia became independent from the Soviet Union.

The ceremony was originally

planned for an outdoor Kremlin square next to the cathedral where the czars were once crowned. But Yeltsin decided this week to move it indoors, to the State Kremlin Palace, known in Soviet days as the Palace of Congresses.

Aides said the indoor ceremony is simpler and cheaper, saving rubles in a time of state budget-tightening.

Russia's Constitutional Court chairman suggested that Yeltsin not give an inaugural speech after saying the presidential oath. Vladimir Tumanov told the Interfax news agency there were plenty of other occasions for political speeches.

It was not known whether Yeltsin would go ahead with a speech. But some press reports suggested that such proposals for shortening the ceremony were meant to make things easier for a frail president.

Yeltsin has been largely out of public sight since late June, and on

vacation for most of the time since his re-election July 3.

Aides have said he is just exhausted after a grueling campaign. Yesterday, spokesman Sergei Medvedev said Yeltsin plans an extended vacation after the inauguration. He said the president worked too hard during his latest break, and now needs a real rest.

The ceremony today will be attended by a few thousand Russian and foreign dignitaries, including many heads of state from former Soviet republics.

Yeltsin's defeated electoral rival, Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, said he will attend the ceremony as any lawmaker is required to do under the constitution.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, however, was not invited, according to officials at his private think tank.

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION (ISRAEL)

The Executive and Staff mourn the passing of

HANNAH WEINSTEIN ז"ל

and extend their sincere condolences to Simie, Mickey, Yigal, and Eli and their families

The unveiling of the monument for our beloved mother and grandmother

ESTHER MIRIAM (Erna) KLEIN ז"ל

will take place at the end of the *Shloshim* on Har Hazeitim.

We will meet at 4:45 p.m. at 20 Agron Street, Jerusalem.

The Levy, Klein and Feust Families

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Congregation Beit Yisrael of Yemin Moshe

mourns the tragic loss of our dear member and friend

JUDITH KAUFMAN HURWICH ז"ל

and extends condolences to the entire family.

Pardes mourns the loss of our friend and Board member

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The Jewish people have lost a true woman of valor.

Ohr Torah Institutions of Israel

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JUDITH HURWICH

a woman of rare warmth and effervescent charm, who was profoundly devoted to her family, the State of Israel, and to women's Torah and secular education on the highest levels.

May the Almighty comfort all the mourners, especially the family's most noble matriarch, Mrs. Rita Kaufman, among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Shiomo Riskin, Dean

San Diego prepares to take center stage

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) - Tucked away in the southernmost corner of California, San Diego has been called the forgotten city.

Even though it has quietly grown into America's sixth largest metropolis in terms of population, it is still a town that gets little respect - known more for its surfers than its scientists and more for its famous zoo than for just about anything else.

But all that may be about to change as San Diego gears up for next week's Republican National Convention, a quadrennial political bash that will thrust it into the media spotlight.

Local officials hope to showcase a city that has staged a dramatic comeback from the post-Cold War collapse of its vital defense industries, reinventing itself as a thriving center of telecommunications, biotechnology and medicine.

San Diegans also take pride in their fun-in-the-sun image and what may be the most tourist-friendly climate of any major American city - with average high temperatures of 70 degrees, low humidity and mostly clear skies.

But officials admit this city of 1.1 million still has its share of problems, including a heavy flow of illegal immigrants and poor neighborhoods plagued by drugs and crime.

Only two years ago, San Diego looked like a long shot in its bid to host its first-ever political convention. Its economy was reeling, its convention hall was thought to be too claustrophobic and its single-runway airport inadequate.

But the Republicans decided to overlook San Diego's shortcomings. They were swayed not only by the spectacular seaside setting but by a chance to show Californians just how serious the party is about the state's 54 electoral votes, a prize that went to Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.

Flight 800 injuries reveal sudden, violent death

NEW YORK (AP) - The coroner doubts that TWA Flight 800 passengers experienced the horror of a free fall and thinks most suffered an almost instantaneous death, he said yesterday.

"I don't think anybody was conscious as they fell from 4,000 meters to the water. When the explosion occurred, some may have had a sudden panic attack for maybe one or two seconds. But I believe they were all totally unconscious or dead by the time they hit the water," said Dr. Charles Wetli, the Suffolk County medical examiner in charge of autopsies conducted on 196 crash victims.

"The majority lost consciousness instantly when the blast went off," he said.

In an interview at his office, Wetli said passengers displayed two kinds of injuries: those consistent with an explosion or those caused by a massive change in speed, cabin pressure and altitude.

The blast occurred not long after takeoff from New York City on the evening of July 17. The Paris-bound Boeing 747 broke apart, dropped to about 2,750 meters, erupted into flames and fell into the Atlantic. All 230 people aboard were killed.

A total of 196 bodies have been recovered and examined by

Wetli's office.

Investigators' prime theory is that a bomb was placed in the front cargo hold where passenger luggage was stored. But they have not ruled out mechanical malfunction or a missile.

If mechanical failure brought down the Boeing 747, investigators have said the most likely scenario would be an explosion set off by vapors in an empty fuel tank at the center of the plane.

"The plane was going at 400 mph, it suddenly changes direction, the fuselage is open so all this air and pressure is going into the cabin, and there's a sudden decompression," Wetli said. "All of this combined would render almost everyone instantly unconscious."

He likened it to a car smashing into a brick wall at similar speed: "It's an extremely violent whiplash, a separation of the skull from the spinal cord, an instant loss of consciousness."

Technically, some victims' deaths were attributed to drowning, but Wetli said they would have been unconscious when they entered the water.

Wetli said investigators were analyzing injuries suffered by passengers in different areas of the plane to see if anything could be learned from them.

Protestants banned from marching through Londonderry

LONDONDERRY (Reuters) - Pro-British Protestants yesterday put pressure on Britain to reverse its order banning them from staging their annual parade on a contentious section of the historic city walls of Londonderry.

Troops used barbed wire and barricades to fence off part of the wall that threatens to become a flashpoint for more violence in Northern Ireland's latest round of sectarian troubles.

Police fear a parade scheduled for tomorrow by the Apprentice Boys, a fervently pro-British Protestant male association, will spark off rioting.

Although the route is partly blocked, more than 10,000 Apprentice Boys and 180 bands are due to parade along another section of the ramparts and through the commercial heart of the predominantly Catholic city tomorrow.

It was the same march in 1969 that ignited the quarter-century of "Troubles" in which 3,200 people have died.

Tension has remained high in the province since efforts to ban a similar Protestant march fell apart last month and days of violence ensued.

Adding to the anxiety, pro-Irish Nationalists in the Roman Catholic Bogside neighborhood, which borders the controversial march route, plan their own parade tonight.

Leaders of the province's main pro-British parties and the head of the Apprentice Boys organisation were meeting Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew in Belfast to register their resentment over the decision to block the route.

"Mr Mayhew has capitulated again to the people who go out to wreck and destroy," Alistair Simpson, leader of the Apprentice Boys association, told Reuters.

"The British government's decision to erect barriers, barbed wire and screening on the walls militarises this year's Apprentice Boys parade and represents its usual inadequate response to political problems."

Radish sprouts blamed for Japan food poisoning epidemic

TOKYO (AP) - Authorities said yesterday that a man who died of food poisoning had likely eaten radish sprouts, adding a key link to the chain of evidence suggesting

the sprouts are to blame for a huge poisoning outbreak.

Japan's health minister announced that the sprouts were the prime suspect in transmitting the E. coli O157 bacteria after an investigation eliminated most other possibilities on school-lunch menus in the city of Sakai, the center of the outbreak.

A total of 6,308 children in Sakai, 480 km west of Tokyo, got sick last month and one 10-year-old girl died. Nationwide, six others have died.

Yesterday a new clue emerged: the company cafeteria at an electronics parts maker in Kyoto, near Sakai, also served the radish sprouts on July 11, Kyoto city officials announced.

Engineer

DAVID L. SZEKELY

passed away after years of suffering

The funeral will take place today, Friday August 9, 1996 (Av 24, 5756) at 11:00 a.m. Meeting at the funeral square at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The family.

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For invitations, please apply to the Public Relations and Commemoration Department, Yad Vashem, tel. 02-751614/5, between 9:00 and 14:00
Transport will be available from Mount Herzl to the Valley of the Communities and back from 19:00

Seating is limited

The Valley of the Communities will be open to the public from 19:00

הללנו מן האל

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, August 9, 1996

Netanyahu vs. Levy: Showdown to the final conflict?

The traditional antagonism between the premier and foreign minister is usually overcome, but David Makovsky writes that, this time, the gap between Netanyahu and Levy may be too wide to cross



Can Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy heal their latest rift? (Efraim Kishitok)

COMPARE the position of Foreign Minister David Levy today to that of Labor MK Shimon Peres exactly four years ago.

Some similarities existed. Peres had just been named foreign minister by Yitzhak Rabin, a premier who was a long-time rival and who was also intent upon running the peace process with neighboring Arab states as well as US-Israel relations by himself.

However, here the similarities stop. Peres, who had been accused previously by Rabin of being an indefatigable intriguer, decided to accept that there was a prime minister and that he needed to win the premier's political trust if he wanted to be involved in peace-making.

Immediately after the 1992 election, Peres' aides Yossi Beilin, Uri Savir and Avi Gil decided that reconstructing the Rabin-Peres relationship was the sine qua non for ending their "internal exile" from the peace process. The three, all former Peres spokesmen, gave no background interviews to journalists in which they were critical of Rabin, regardless of any "provocations" from Rabin's office.

Peres also accepted a division of labor whereby he would deal with more secondary foreign policy matters, such as ties with the European Union and multilateral peace talks dealing with regional issues such as water and the environment.

After nine months of this, Rabin actually began to trust Peres. During the spring of 1993, the two held a running series of one-on-one wide-ranging discussions which, while their contents have never been fully revealed, are believed to have been crucial in allowing Rabin to become more convinced that he should give exploratory talks to academics in Oslo a chance to become full-blown official negotiations. As they say, the rest is history.

LEVY, however, has taken exactly the opposite approach to Netanyahu that Peres took towards Rabin. Where Peres demonstrated loyalty, Levy has demonstrated defiance. Levy's implied threat to resign this week was his third such threat in less than two months. The first time, Levy embarrassed Netanyahu in front of the entire Knesset by holding up the induction of the government. The second time, Levy ambushed Netanyahu in front of cameras at a faction meeting in the Knesset, again threatening to resign unless his demand for Ariel Sharon to join the cabinet was met.

After these two instances, in which Netanyahu was forced to bow due to fear that Levy may bolt and deprive him of his coalition majority, Levy's aides claimed to be shocked, complaining they simply don't understand why Netanyahu does not take Levy into his confidence. Given these recent incidents, there is certainly no basis for personal trust.

Further exacerbating the Netanyahu-Levy conflict is the new law for the premier's direct election and, more specifically, the

twilight period between the fall of one political system and likely rise of the next. Netanyahu sees that law as both providing the justifiable rationale for his control of the most important issues of foreign affairs and enabling him to make reforms in the economic sphere without being chained to the vagaries of coalition politics.

However, what Netanyahu sees as an opportunity, Levy sees as a threat. His own alliance with Sharon is based on political expediency, believing if they do not join hands and slow down this new prime minister, their political stature will plummet under the new system. Therefore, future manufactured crises seem more likely since Levy sees his and Netanyahu's interests as divergent.

What Levy and Sharon see

Peres took time and effort to win the trust of Rabin. Levy appears to be doing just the opposite.

working for them is that Netanyahu may believe he is fashioning the early makings of presidential governance, but so far, it still remains locked in the old confines of a parliamentary system where Levy can virtually pull the plug anytime by bolting the coalition.

It seems obvious that if Netanyahu does not head for a national-unity government with Labor, Levy will use his political leverage and perpetrate crises and completely erode the premier's authority. If Netanyahu does not opt for a unity government, the issue becomes the modus vivendi for a new working arrangement between the premier and Levy.

Of course, turf battles between the prime minister and foreign minister are as old as Israel: David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharett, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir. They are exacerbated in this country for two reasons: The traditional primacy of the Arab-Israel conflict over economic issues for any premier and, most critically, the fractured coalition nature of the parliamentary democracy which almost guarantees that a rival rather than a partner will hold the Foreign Ministry chair.

The Rabin-Peres model of '92-'93 seems to be a good place for Netanyahu and Levy to begin, where there is a division of labor between the two on who does what on foreign affairs. Like Rabin, Netanyahu would deal with US-Israel relations and Israel's most immediate Arab neighbors involved in the peace process leaving Europe, North Africa, the Gulf states, and multilateral peace talks to Levy.

If Levy demonstrates over time that he can work with the premier and Netanyahu can trust him, only

then might it be possible for the relationship to evolve into one like the Rabin-Peres partnership of '93-'95.

Ironically, it is Netanyahu who resisted efforts to draw up a division of labor between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, believing this would be politically preferable as it would appear that Levy is involved in everything. However, without defined tasks, the Foreign Ministry is left with virtually nothing.

One diplomat said only half-jokingly, "the only thing we have been asked to do is to complain to the Olympics about the Palestinian delegation being called Palestine."

This, of course, grates on diplomats, who saw the 1993 Oslo accord as heralding not just a historic change with the Palestinians, but also for the ministry as well. Pre-1993, the Foreign Ministry was in the words of Harry Kneitel, head of the Foreign Ministry's Policy Planning Unit, often nothing more than the "information arm of the Defense Ministry."

Since Oslo, however, it has been totally different, the Foreign Ministry is involved both in shaping policy and being an equal partner with the Defense Ministry and the security services. As one Foreign Ministry official put it, "there is a whole youngish generation of foreign service officers who reached political maturity during Oslo. Unlike the older generation that is used to being treated as second-class by the rest of the bureaucracy, they are not and they are fighting to ensure that the ministry is not returned to its pre-Oslo box."

HOWEVER, the approach of a few Foreign Ministry officials in dealing with this problem has been deadly. They seem intent upon building themselves up while tearing down the prime minister's foreign policy adviser, Dr. Dore Gold, by providing journalists with vicious statements which seem to border on character assassination.

Ironically, this is occurring while Gold, who holds a Columbia University doctorate in Middle East studies, is receiving commendations for seriousness and knowledge of the region from such people as Jordan's King Hussein, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and even Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who is certainly not known for giving Israel the benefit of the doubt.

Moussa's comments may not be coincidental. While the jury is still out on how Netanyahu deals with such crucial issues as the Palestinians or Syria, a preliminary assessment would suggest that since assuming office, Netanyahu and Gold, with the

assistance of the US, have acted deftly in finessing, and hopefully defusing, a potential foreign policy catastrophe: Egypt.

Part of the problem on foreign policy for Netanyahu the prime minister has been Netanyahu the candidate. Specifically, poorly worded policy guidelines dictated by party politics served as ammunition for an Arab summit in Cairo, which threatened to bait normalization between Israel and the Arab world. There was talk of a new Egypt-Syria axis. While standing next to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo a few weeks later, Netanyahu announced a variety of gestures on the Palestinian front which demonstrated a recognition of Egypt's perennial quest for centrality in the region.

Mubarak, who said he was worried about Netanyahu's true peace intentions, said he is now "relaxed." Subsequently, Netanyahu has been careful to speak to Mubarak by phone. They have spoken twice this week alone.

Moreover, the Prime Minister's Office is also finding a common language with the Clinton Administration's Middle East peace team, which has been attacked for being pro-Peres. US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross and Dore Gold have known each other since the 1980s when they both worked on projects at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think-tank which just so happened to be headed then by the current US ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk. Not only have the three emerged from academia and the think-tank world, but Ross and Gold also speak the foreign language of what is called "Pentagonese" from the time that each worked on defense issues.

ISRAEL has enough foreign affairs issues in the world that there is something for everyone to do, both in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. Problems between Gold and the Foreign Ministry can be easily solved, but unfortunately this spat is being subsumed by the Netanyahu-Levy political clash. An optimistic view is that the two will genuinely derive inspiration

from the fact that Rabin and Peres found a way to make history without loving each other. However, this requires a whole new mindset.

The more jaded view is that if nothing else, fundamental changes in the composition of the coalition and a papered-over res-

olution of this crisis between Netanyahu and Levy will just plant the seeds for the inevitable next one to come.

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Modest proposals of the violent kind

The haredi attempt to control Jerusalem is being waged over the bodies of local women. Esther Hecht reports



A woman in a sleeveless summer shirt passes a haredi man near the Education Ministry. (Brian Heidler)

ILACH Oren has learned the hard way to take extra care about how she dresses. Like many of her female coworkers at the Education Ministry — sandwiched between Jerusalem's downtown and the Mea She'arim Quarter — Oren must run a gauntlet of critical haredi women every day on her way to and from her car to the office.

"I got used to bringing a shirt to put over my clothes whenever I wore a tank top," says Oren, 27.

But on Monday, July 29, though she dressed for work in a long-sleeved shirt, she didn't pass the neighborhood inspection team. When she came to get her car after work, she found the windshield smashed.

Oren is one of more than 30 women working in the area known to have been attacked in the past six weeks, according to City Councillor Ornan Yekutieli, who spoke at a demonstration in the ministry's courtyard this week to protest the violent attempts at religious coercion.

Though veteran ministry employees recall haredi attacks for the same ostensible reasons as many as five and 10 years ago, they say the inci-

dence and virulence of the attacks has increased in recent weeks.

Yekutieli and other representatives of the Freedom Front — Judaism Without Coercion, an ad hoc coalition of organizations, see the recent spate of attacks as linked to the stepped-up battle over the Shabbat closure of Rebov Bar-Ilan. It is, as they and some other observers see it, just a new phase in the long struggle over the character of Jerusalem, fueled by the haredi parties' gains in the May 29 elections.

BUT THE "War of the Sleeves" being waged around the Education Ministry also reflects changes within the haredi community, academic experts say. While extreme members of the community put pressure on secular women to conform, they are also demanding that haredi women be more punctilious about their appearance.

For decades, signs at entrances to the haredi neighborhood have adjured visitors to respect the residents' notions of modesty. "Entrance for women dressed immodestly, tourists and groups, is strictly forbidden. This is a [sic] residence area, not a tourist site. Please don't irritate our feelings," [signed] Neighborhood Council" says a

Policewoman recalls how she was attacked

FOR Gila Levy (not her real name) putting on a sleeveless dress and waiting to be attacked was all in the line of duty.

The Jerusalem police cadet dressed in plain clothes, was a decoy in an attempt last week to flush out haredi attackers of women near the Education Ministry.

"My job was to pick up a rented car and park it on the corner of Dvora Hanevia and Salant [where some ministry workers had been attacked] around 11 a.m.," she recalled this week. "When I got out of the car, I heard a man shouting, 'Whore, get out of here.'"

According to her instructions, she waited two minutes and then left on foot in the direction of the ministry. At 1:30 p.m. she returned to the car, opened the door and stood there pretending to be looking for something in her purse. Again a haredi man shouted the same epithet at her, called over a haredi woman and shouted at Levy again.

And then the violence turned physical. "He picked up a large rock and threw it at me," she said. Luckily, the rock missed her and hit the car instead, damaging the windshield and the roof.

When the detectives waiting in a car nearby arrested him, "the woman came closer to me, screamed all kinds of curses and hit me hard. People started coming out of their houses and it was getting dangerous." At that point the police ordered Levy to leave the area.

THOUGH POLICE action failed to end the attacks, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer have remained conspicuously silent. Benzion Dell,

the ministry's director-general, issued a statement on July 30 that condemned an attack on one worker, suggesting it was perpetrated by "delinquents" and expressing hope that "those in charge of maintaining law and order" would respond appropriately.

This week his senior assistant, Michael Cohen, said the ministry compound can't accommodate all the workers' cars and that tenured workers have priority for the parking space available.

Instead of expressing concern over those attacked, he said, "They don't have to park there [in the lot behind the ministry where some attacks have occurred]. They could park somewhere else," ignoring the fact that women have been attacked on nearly every street in the area.

When asked this week about the attacks, Tova Azulai, in the office of the ministry's spokesman, expressed surprise that anyone was still concerned about them.

Meanwhile, two Conservative rabbis called on the Religious Zionist camp to stop fiddling while Jerusalem burns. "I can't find any Orthodox people to come [to protest haredi coercion]," said Rabbi Eilat Ramon, spokeswoman for the Conservative (Masorti) Movement. "They sit on the sidelines and say nothing. Even those who didn't vote for religious parties don't speak out."

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, acting chairman of Hemdat — the Association for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture, a coalition of religious and secular organizations, sounded a jeremiad against those who haven't yet joined the struggle: "The public must wake up." *E.H.*

Supermarket bows to haredi pressure

As temperatures rose this summer, so did haredi demands around the country for women to cover up. According to the daily *Yediot Aharonot*, female employees of Hadera's City Hall said they were told to come to work in "modest clothing" following complaints by haredi councillors.

A few days later, the paper reported the Kiryat Malachi Local Council had made similar sartorial demands of its female workers in response to a complaint by a Shas councillor, Gabi Rahamin. He said residents, especially those who are religiously observant, were bothered by being served by women in "revealing" clothes.

According to another item that day, Hadera Municipal Theater actresses who portray prostitutes in the play *Hostage* were asked by the holder of the city's culture portfolio to wear costumes that "don't emphasize certain parts of the body."

The request was purportedly to enable the mayor and two religious deputies to watch the play. The cast refused. In Jerusalem, a supermarket owned by the SuperSol chain has refused entry to women customers unless they wear a skirt or dress. The Israel Women's Network, a women's rights lobby, said it sent a letter of protest to the company's managing director and he agreed to make the dress code a suggestion rather than an order.

But the store bowed to renewed haredi pressure and the IWN is now filing a complaint with the Industry and Trade Ministry. According to IWN spokeswoman Ornit Sullitzeanu, the complaint is supported by a law that forbids making the sale of price-controlled goods contingent on "unreasonable demands." The IWN is also planning a boycott of the SuperSol chain. *E.H.*

KNOWN as "the three weeks," it is nearly the only time of year during which yeshiva students are not studying. Given this time as a summer vacation, Israel's young, single, male Orthodox population takes full advantage. But a potential good time has turned sour recently, as more and more tragic accidents have called the value of this vacation into question.

This year's vacation period was no exception. Only last week, a yeshiva student was killed in a car accident while on a road trip in a rented car with fellow students. This was only the latest in a history of similar accidents during this time. In August 1993, Bnei Brak

yeshiva student Yehoshua Fishel, 18, drowned in Nahal Zakal in the Golan Heights while swimming with friends in a prohibited area. A year later, three youths from Gush Katif and Páruess Hanna became trapped on a ledge while rappelling in the Eilat mountains. None had proper equipment.

Last year, after an increase in fatal accidents, the Committee for Yeshivot published a warning to yeshiva students not to hitchhike or rent cars for pleasure trips during yeshiva vacation time. But to little avail. From unsafe swimming and rappelling to forbidden relations with women, yeshiva boys fill their three weeks with risky activities, dangerously pushing the limits of their invincibility.

According to sociologist Menachem Friedman, this behavior is not surprising. "People that are in such a strict atmosphere for so long go crazy when they have a vacation," he says. Friedman also attributes this behavior to a broader social phenomenon. He explains the inner

conflict of the haredi Israeli being a part of Israeli society, while simultaneously being an outsider. Throughout the year, says Friedman, the haredim lead very separate and different lives, but during their vacation, they yearn to be like the secular Israeli.

THIS PHENOMENON is known as referencing, explains Friedman. For every person, there exists an imaginary group he wants to be like. For Israelis, this is Americans. For haredim, it is "a regular young Israeli that goes to the army," says Friedman.

Yeshiva boys just wanna have fun

KEREN MARKUZE

The activities in which the yeshiva students engage during their break are ones which are considered to be typical Israeli ones. Swimming and rappelling are both popular sports in Israeli society. Reckless driving too, is quickly becoming the nation's notorious pastime.

So, it appears, yeshiva students are not getting these ideas from their own heads. They are mirroring a reality which they see, and long to, at least temporarily, be a part of, believes Friedman.

And while warnings may be proving ineffective, they are the "maximum possible," according to Mordechai Tivito, administrative director of Yeshivat Ateret Yisrael in Bayit Vegan.

"All heads of yeshiva, before they [yeshiva students] go on vacation, tell them not to rent cars and if they go away, to go with older people. We also threaten to kick them out of yeshiva if they defy these warnings," says Tivito. "But there's also the issue that the kids want to have fun. They are 18 after all, and during vacation time they have the right to do whatever they want."

Journalist Ishai Weiner believes that when a young man is intent on doing something, he cannot be prevented. He recalls his experiences as a yeshiva student, and explains the overwhelming desire he and his friends had to travel.

"Pictures were always something yeshiva boys really liked, especially dangerous-looking ones," he says. He adds that as yeshiva students, they always thought they knew everything. For example, if they were hiking, they would insist on not following the marked path, out of confidence that they knew the way. "A lack of understanding of how to be careful, and a desire to travel around the country, sometimes led to bad things," recalls Weiner, pointing out there were numerous tragedies during his years as a yeshiva student.

In addition to warnings, Tivito adds there are other preventive measures taken, including programs organized during the three weeks to keep the students occupied, and to prevent them from getting into trouble.

Periodic trips are organized to visit different rabbis for lessons and discussion. As an alternative, the yeshiva itself is open for those who wish to continue their studies. In the Habad community, yeshiva students are kept out of trouble during the three weeks because they spend it acting as counselors for the younger children in their community.

In those communities where the problem persists, a stigma is being formed against the yeshiva boys guilty of this behavior. Yair Rozner, who runs a car-rental bureau in a haredi Jerusalem neighborhood, refuses to rent cars to haredim unless they are at least 25 years old and married.

After witnessing the death of one student, and the injury of many others, Rozner no longer wants to deal with the guilt of telling families something happened to their

son. Rozner made this decision three years ago, and still stands firm.

"I don't rent them cars. They don't know how to drive. Out of principle I don't rent to them," he states, explaining that most of their families do not own cars, and therefore they have no driving experience. But haredim still come in asking for rentals, says Rozner. "They don't realize there's a stigma against them because other companies give them cars."

According to Tivito, much of the responsibility for these problems rests in the hands of parents, and preventive measures must be taken by them as well. "Once the kids go home, they are in their parents' hands," says Tivito.

But Weiner believes that while warnings are helpful in combating this problem, much of the decrease in these incidents will happen naturally, as the intrigue and excitement of travel declines.

"Yeshiva boys are more spoiled now," he says, explaining that the desire to travel is not as strong among the yeshiva boys as it once was. However Friedman believes that regardless of warnings and preventive measures, the young haredim will continue to engage in these activities.

"In Geula and Mea She'arim," he points out, "you see signs for [driving] courses during this period. Rabbis are trying to fight this. They give them warnings. But it's not working."

Tivito, however, feels the problem is decreasing, and students are realizing the need to be careful.

According to Rozner, age is the only solution to this problem. "Once they're married they are more relaxed," he says, "they are more cautious because they have a wife and children to think about."

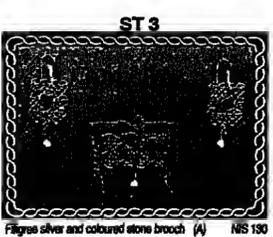


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מלפני אל אלו

More moderate than it looks

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy is quite unlike what many people believe, and also different from most of his supporters' views, as his dealings with Jordan are likely to show.

The last government's strategy helped convert Jordan from a real, if unenthusiastic, enemy to a virtual ally. Now the question is whether warm Israel-Jordan relations can be maintained despite Netanyahu's tough line toward the Palestinians and Syrians.

A sign of the importance that Netanyahu attaches to this neighboring kingdom is that while he let Foreign Minister David Levy hold discussions with the Palestinian Authority — neither a "foreign" issue nor an independent country — he kept Levy completely away from dealings with Jordan, which this week Netanyahu visited for the first time as prime minister.

Ironically, while the new government's view of the Middle East seems so ideological, the prime minister's conception is based on a very strong — perhaps excessive — dose of realpolitik.

The standard right-wing line is that the region has not changed very much. Most, perhaps all, of the Arabs, motivated by nationalistic or Islamic fanaticism, still want to destroy Israel. Consequently, Israeli concessions are risky without bringing benefits. The main emphasis here is on danger.

In contrast, the Labor party and its allies have argued that the existence of a new Middle East provides a wonderful opportunity to create a stable peace, much to Israel's benefit. The USSR's collapse, America's preeminence and real shifts in Arab politics and power must be recognized and utilized, they argue. Normalized relations could be built with most of the region's states and compromise with the Palestinians would end that conflict. If this chance is missed, they assert, violence and even war will return to the region. But the main emphasis here is on opportunity.

Netanyahu's line during the election campaign effectively combined fear and hope, employing the slogan of a "secure peace." The real idea here is that Israel could have its cake and eat it too. In short, the country could have everything it wanted (the territories, all of Jerusalem, and so on) alongside regional conciliation and a sharp decline in terrorism.

The prime minister's view of the Middle East does accept that real changes have happened, but the lessons he draws from this are the opposite of those that were reached by former prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Weaker radical forces, the Arab world's growing indifference to the Palestinians and America's role as the globe's sole superpower means that Israel lacks a sufficient incentive to make big concessions.

A large part of this view comes from the prime minister's advisor, Dr. Dore Gold, who many in the local media underestimate. The Arab states

Barry Rubin analyzes the complicated state of the PM's foreign policy

are considered by Netanyahu and Gold to be absorbed in their own national and regime interests. By somehow capitalizing on this, the government hopes to neutralize a failure to make progress in the peace process. Paradoxically, this might work best in Syria's case.

Contrary to all appearances, Damascus is probably pleased at Netanyahu's election. Now it can return to the familiar routine of radical posturing. Syria can demand Arab support in its struggle while trying to deflect blame on Israel, rather than having to decide whether to exchange full peace for the Golan's return.

Yet despite their rhetoric (and perhaps some increase in sponsoring terrorism), Israel's critics can do little to force it to change course. After all, will Syria go to war if Israel does not quickly return the Golan? Can the Palestinians do much to threaten Israel if they do not get a state? Will the Saudis, Egyptians or Jordanians make sacrifices for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat or Syrian President Hafez Assad? Will the US apply really intensive pressure on Israel? Not likely.

Simultaneously, then, Netanyahu's position is more moderate than his colleagues, while also implicitly refuting their claims that the Arab states are still trying hard to destroy Israel.

Even if he does not like the direction they were taking, Netanyahu's stand admits that Rabin and Peres left Israel in a strong position.

JORDAN IS the state where this strategy is most likely to work. This is quite a reversal for a party in which some of the leaders once trumpeted that "Jordan is Palestine," in effect urging the PLO to take power in Amman instead of Hebron.

The two countries have a great deal in common. Like Israel, Amman feels threatened by Iran, Iraq and radical Islamic fundamentalist groups. Jordanian leaders have openly complained of Syrian-backed attempts at terrorist attacks against itself.

King Hussein has a problematic relationship with Arafat. Leaders in Israel's new government like to say that Jordan also opposes an independent Palestinian state. Amman also wants the US to maintain a strong influence in the region and to receive American assistance, a front on which Israel can help.

So there is a firm basis for a continued Israel-Jordan alignment. The Jordanian monarch has even become the intermediary — albeit so far an

unsuccessful one — in promoting Israel-Syria negotiations.

Yet there is also a limit on how far Jordan will go in ignoring Israeli policies in the territories or a breakdown in the peace process. Domestic public opinion and relations with other Arab states are also certainly components in the regime's set of interests.

When King Hussein argued at the recent Arab summit that Netanyahu should be given a chance, he was speaking on the assumption that Israel's prime minister would use that opportunity. In going to Damascus to urge a renewal of Israel-Syria talks, the king is acting on a belief that progress would help ease tensions.

Precisely because Jordan wants good relations with Israel it urges moderation on that neighbor. Already senior Jordanian officials have warned that they will have to distance themselves if the new government follows an intransigent policy.

In the long run, Jordan cannot afford to become too isolated in the Arab world. Its worries over Syria, Iraq and Iran need to be balanced by good relations with Egypt and other regional countries. King Hussein wants to be Israel's guide to getting along with the Arabs, not its confederate in defying them.

Moreover, Jordan can make a mirror image of Netanyahu's strategy: even if it conks relations with Israel the Jewish state's interests will require it to back Amman against radical threats.

Nor can the monarchy completely ignore its constituents at home — over half of them Palestinian — who want to see an improved situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

If Amman goes too far in accepting an Israeli policy that includes more settlements and a refusal to trade land for peace, it will lose any hope of having influence in the West Bank. Outbreaks of violence west of the Jordan River, accompanied by increased radical influence among Palestinians, also are not in Jordan's interest. What is true for Jordan applies even more so for the rest of the Arab world. There is also an Arab version of having one's cake and eating it, too. Despite the outcries of many intellectuals, journalists and political activists, those countries do not want to suffer and sacrifice for the Palestinians, much less Syria. But they also have no powerful incentive to normalize relations with Israel if they do not like its policies and believe it is sabotaging the peace process.

Therefore, the strength of Netanyahu's strategy is also its weakness. He can, at least for a couple of years, maintain the status quo without a huge cost to Israel. This could be a relatively popular outcome with Israeli voters.

Yet by the same token, this approach will only postpone handling these problems, especially as it becomes increasingly evident that the final round of Israel-Palestinian talks are deadlocked. At every step of the way, Jordan's attitude will be a very important measure of the situation.

International relations meet domestic affairs

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon marched grimly into Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's office and the two talked earnestly for several hours. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy convened his faction leaders for

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAL YUDELMAN

Tuesday night, Netanyahu made clear that "there is one and only one prime minister in Israel" and that prime minister intends to run the peace process. He drove the point home by adding that it was he who had been given the mandate to "preserve the state's assets and lands."

It was time for Levy first to hit the roof, and then the road. He threatened to resign, drove to Beit Sbe'an, and stayed home in a huff, pointedly boycotting the inner cabinet meeting and special cabinet session on Wednesday.

Some Likud MKs said Netanyahu was settling accounts with Levy for his arm-twisting over the forming of the cabinet, and again over the creation of a ministry for Sharon. Many others had long predicted that just such a



Dr. Dore Gold, not David Levy, was the one called to the PM's side. (Isaac Harari)



and curses, why not toss a taxpayer's coin or a Bible for a ministry? Come to think of it, one said, they should have done it for all of the ministries — the results couldn't have been worse.

"We won," Shas MKs trumpeted, to onts and ahs of feigned surprise.

If Shlomo Benizri is not appointed deputy infrastructure minister, Shas may bolt. (Harari)

an emergency confab in Tel Aviv. Great state events were surely afoot. A breakthrough with Syria perhaps? The long-awaited decision on Hebron?

Another secret tete-a-tete with an Arab leader in some European capital?

Of course not. The government is far too busy with real and serious issues.

The matter of utmost national importance this week was bilateral relations between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, and the squabbling leaders heading each.

The underground rumbles began several days ago when the Foreign Ministry began leaking to the media its growing disenchantment at being completely bypassed by the new boys in the PMO.

The last straw was the prime minister's trip to see King Hussein following the secret Syrian envoy affair, the secret meetings affair, the Palestinian affair and the King Hassan of Morocco affair.

"The Foreign Ministry's experts as well as diplomats deeply involved in the peace process complained of being excluded from the steering committee for negotiations with the Palestinians. And when Netanyahu wanted to update the Americans on his

"Lebanon first" and Syrian track ideas, he dispatched not his foreign minister, but Dr. Dore Gold.

Foreign Ministry officials had to call Israel Radio reporter Shlomo Raz (a neat reversal of the "well-informed source" routine) to seek information on the "secret Syrian envoy" who met Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

The ministry's Jordan desk experts spluttered indignantly when they realized that no invitations to Amman with Netanyahu's entourage had plopped onto their desks.

"I'm being neutralized," Levy wailed. In meetings with his aides he accused the prime minister of breaking agreements of cooperation with him.

"Netanyahu's inconsistency makes me shudder," he said, as he slipped into one of his classic sulks.

In a television interview

crisis was inevitable, probably sooner rather than later, given the history of feuding between the two protagonists.

MK and former Labor minister Yossi Beilin defined the situation between Netanyahu and Levy as a "primitive power struggle." Beilin said the Foreign Ministry currently is playing no role in the political process.

"Levy is a foreign minister in title only. It is clear to the world that Israel's Foreign Ministry is no longer relevant. There is no address in Israel for any external elements who want to help with the peace process. Even statesmen who want to visit Israel have no one to talk to."

What Netanyahu and Levy need before the soup boils over, concluded sniggering MKs from both sides of the house, is a nanny!

First to the rescue was Nanny Sharon, keenly followed by a fussy Nanny Deri. So, will they reach a compromise? Will the crisis spill into next week? Is there more trouble ahead? To be continued.

PLACE YOUR BETS

The Knesset became a state casino this week. It was lottery time, the time to see who would be the lucky, lucky minister. Would it be Shas, folks, or would it be the NRP — who ultimately did walk off with the Religious Affairs Ministry.

It all provided a little light amusement for MKs' coffee time — quite appropriate, really, some said. After an election campaign waged with amulets, incantations

and curses, why not toss a taxpayer's coin or a Bible for a ministry? Come to think of it, one said, they should have done it for all of the ministries — the results couldn't have been worse.

"We won," Shas MKs trumpeted, to onts and ahs of feigned surprise.

Thus does a democracy choose a minister on the edge of the 21st century.

The one-year rotation scheme for the religious affairs minister, director-general and all their personal assistants, including two permanent deputy ministers, is estimated to cost a paltry NIS 5 million per annum. A bargain really in these belt tightening times, we may mutter as we look for a few more agorot for the bus fare, wonder what not to buy with the vanished child allowances, or fret about slashed health services and reduced security guards at schools.

But surely we can be grateful one dire government crisis was solved to the satisfaction of all who care about the Religious Ministry's coffers.

Or maybe, not so fast. There is that other little crisis brewing, Shas is still threatening to quit the coalition if MK Shlomo Benizri is not appointed as deputy national infrastructure minister. Over to you, Nanny Sharon.

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

NASA scientists have found the first signs of life on Mars. This raises a slight hope that some may yet be found in our government. But Science Minister Benny Begin said his ministry will not be investigating UFOs.

Begin, somewhat amused by a sudden flood of UFO sightings in various parts of Israel, told *Ma'ariv*: "I'm not sure the Science Ministry should deal with hysteria. Its job is to deal with science; the various phenomena reported in the last few days are beyond that."

Professor Ariel Cohen, Hebrew University's department head for atmospheric sciences, sent Begin a letter suggesting he set up a committee for UFOs.

"If the matter causes hysteria," Begin said, "perhaps it belongs to the epidemiology department of the Health Ministry."

It clearly calls for at least one X-File. Perhaps Dana Sculley and Fox Mulder will be joining that team of advisers in the Prime Minister's Office.

Down in Gaza, they're simply wondering when the government will report its first sighting of a UPE — an Unidentified Palestinian Entity.

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האזנה מאלו

In the days when winning wasn't everything

AGAINST THE GRAIN
HILLEL HALKIN

I didn't watch very much of the Olympic Games. Perfect athletes, unless touched by a more than merely physical grace, tend to bore me. To this day I'd rather see a good choose-up basketball game than the NBA playoffs.

And anyway, the Games have expanded to the point where you can hardly (no pun intended) keep track of them. This year there was mountain biking and beach volleyball. Perhaps next time around they'll have *matkot*, if anyone can figure out a way to keep score.

I would propose giving Olympic status to a few other little-known sports too. I would begin with *siug*, Chinese, one-wall handball, *boxball*, off-the-wall, off-the-stoop, punchball, *suckball*, *fungo*, running bases, one-hand touch, two-hand touch, half-court basketball, horse, one-on-one, shooting marbles, pitching pennies, *ringaleveo*, *saluji*, hide-and-seek.

Johnoy-on-the-pony, and roller-skate hockey. After that we might consider additional games from my childhood.

Do boys still play the way we used to - incessantly, devotedly, compulsively, ecstatically, obliviously of waiting suppers, promised parents, undone homework, fading daylight, skinned knees and elbows? If they do, I haven't seen them. It's my impression that nowadays they prefer one-on-one with a computer.

I suppose we're all nostalgic for our youth. Today's kids will grow old and shake their heads at a generation that doesn't know the thrill of fighting virtual space wars while dinner grows cold on the table. And I'm sure they're learning valuable things while they're at it: computer friendliness, right-brain/left-brain coordination, and the like.

What we learned was the social contract.

That, you may remember, was the name given by the Enlightenment philosopher Rousseau to the pact posited by him to have taken place among our ancient ancestors, whereby they consented to give up the law of the jungle and live together by mutually agreed-upon rules.

It was by virtue of this contract, according to Rousseau, that true sovereignty continued to reside in the people no matter who ruled them, and that they retained the inalienable right to overthrow whom they wished.

A nice theory. The only trouble with it is that it's no more than that. No copies of the social contract have ever come down from prehistory and nowhere on earth can you observe it being renewed in its pristine form.

Except in the games of children. When I think about it, the most remarkable thing about the sports that we played was that we had no umpires, no judges, no referees; we had no ood for them; got along fine without them.

Sometimes, on the concrete basketball court of a playground, we argued because I thought you had fouled me and you thought you hadn't. But just as often the argument went:

"Hey, it's your ball. I fouled ya."
"Nah, y' didn't. It's your ball."
"But I really did, no kiddin'."
"If you'd fouled me, I'da felt it."
"C'mon, take the ball and let's play."

Imagine such a dialogue taking place between the captains of the Argentinian and Nigerian football teams when Nigeria's Emanuel

Amonika scored a winning goal from an off-side position missed by the linesman a minute before the end of regulation play in the Olympic gold-medal final.

But it was really just common sense. If you pretended to be fouled when you weren't, so might the other guy, and then where were you? Sooner or later, with a fight and no ball game; back to the old *lex talionis*.

And besides, if you cheated and got away with it, what had you won? Winning had no material value; it was not reported in the newspaper, did not go down in the record books; there were not even any spectators around to observe it; it was simply the arithmetical notation of the fact that you had played better than the other side and had the right to

feel proud of it. If the arithmetic lied and you knew it, it was an empty victory.

This is why, years after catching my last fungo and hitting my last sidewalk-bugging slug, I understood immediately, intuitively Albert Camus's words when he wrote:

"Everything I know today about morality, I learned on the football field as a boy."

In the deepest sense, the games of my childhood were not about winning at all. Winning was easy. It did not have to be learned.

The games of my childhood were about losing. Losing was hard. It meant walking off the field with the knowledge that you had not been as good as you should have been, or as good as someone else.

And if that also meant that you might never be as good, there was anguish and even despair. A 10-year-old who has struck out in the

pinch, or muffed a crucial fly ball, is not easily consoled.

Not that we thought of it that way, but it was not a bad introduction to life, which is mostly about losing too. We are never as good as it as we should be, and there is always someone better than us. And the worst defeats are those in which there are no others - in which we have played only against ourselves and lost.

For that the games of childhood do not prepare us very well, but neither do the Olympics.

No, if there are still boys playing off-the-stoop, let them go on playing it where they should: against the front steps of a New York brownstone, with the pink rubber ball we called a *spaldeeo* (go find that word in the dictionary?), one bounce a single, two a double, three a triple, four a home run.

Hit a passing car and it's a foul ball; miss the steps and you're out.

Who is a 'resident' and who is a 'settler'?

EARLY IN 1976, a local publisher issued a Hebrew translation of *The Settlers*, Meyer Levin's epic novel about the beginnings of the modern mass return to Zion at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.

The publisher had two possibilities for a Hebrew title. One was *Hamiyushvim*, from the root of the verb "to sit." From the same root we get *yishuv*, "settlement" or "locality."

The other was *Haminaholim*, a classically appropriate word. It appears in the Tanach numerous times in the sense of "inheritance" - i.e., property one has inherited or is to inherit from one's forebears, or which one is to hand down to one's progeny. In its various forms, it is the term the Tanach, especially in the Torah and the Book of Joshua, uses most frequently in connection with the Jews' taking possession of the Promised Land.

Sometimes it means simply "national territory," as we read in Moses' farewell declamation: "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, / When He separated the children of Adam, / He set the borders of the peoples..." (Deuteronomy 32:8).

Now I haven't been able to learn who applied the term *minaholim* to those who after the 1967 Six Day War, but especially after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, went to build and live in villages and towns in Judea, Samaria, the Gaza District and the Golan Heights. Those *minaholim* may have adopted the name, proudly seeing themselves as continuers or resurmers of the *hinhalahut* begun by the Jewish people's forebears under the leadership of Moses and Joshua. Or it may have been pejoratively applied to them by people who opposed their action, seeing it as a replay of what they considered the dastardly criminal biblical precedent - the dispossession of the "Seven Canaanite Nations."

Be that as it may, the above publisher decided to call Levin's book *Haminaholim*, evidently considering that the book's First and Second Aliya protagonists were Jews reclaiming the "national inheritance" first taken possession of by our biblical forebears.

This brought a pained outcry from a left-wing book reviewer: How dared the publisher issue a novel that makes heroes of those

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

ignoble, chauvinistic, wild-eyed, gun-toting messianist *minaholim* of Gush Etzion, who had come to dispossess the "indigenous" Arabs of the "West Bank"?

In the years since, the overwhelming majority of our mediocrities, politicians (even those who support the post-1967 settlement movement) and ordinary folk (even those with children and grandchildren among the settlers) have adopted a glossary that is inimical not only to our residence in what our detractors call "Greater Israel," including Judea/Samaria, but to our very presence in "Little Israel," the Israel of the 1949 armistice lines our "post-Zionist," post-Jewish, meta-historical Jews so yearn for.

I MENTION this in connection with the disappointment of those who expected the Netanyahu regime to launch its career by carrying out a quick *Gleichschaltung* (straightening of the ranks) in our state-supervised electronic media.

Some are disappointed because they are tired of holding their breath waiting for the other shoe to fall so they can carry out their promise to take to the streets and give their blood in the struggle against "fascism." And some are disappointed because they thought those media would by now be virtual mouthpieces for ideas labeled "religious" or "right wing."

A major indication of how nothing fundamental has changed is that our radio and television journalists continue to speak of the "shahim/territories/areas" and the "Gadida/West Bank" rather than of "Judea and Samaria," those areas' historical names.

Worse yet, those mediocrities continue to use the term "settlers" as a synonym for Jews inhabiting "the areas," a designation implying that they are latter-day interlopers who sooner or later will be removed from there, and the term "local residents" as self-evidently synonymous with the Arab and other non-Jewish residents of "the Gadida."

Thus, when we hear reports - as we frequently do - of actions involving "residents of the areas," we are assumed to know that this concerns Arabs or Armenians etc.,

not Jews. And members of a three-generation Jewish family living in Alon Shvut for more than a quarter-century are not "local residents," but "settlers."

Not even Jews living in Hebron or Kiryat Arba whose family's residence there goes back many generations are entitled to the designation, "local residents."

Indeed, one local journalist, in a discussion of the demography of Galilee, spoke of the increase in recent years in "the proportion of Jews to local residents." Even in "Little Israel's" Galilee, Jews have not yet earned recognition as "local residents."

THE ARAB Organization of Human Rights (AOHR) and Arab Press Union (APU) recently expressed "alarm" over the fact that "journalists in several Arab states are suffering from the detrimental effects of recent legislation "restricting press freedoms."

The APU reported an "escalation" of attacks against Arab journalists in Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan and "Palestine." The "Palestinian journalists ... suffer from the 'brutality' of the Israeli occupation ... especially in limiting their movement. Reporters in the Arab occupied territories are frequently subject to siege, the 'cruel forms of censorship and difficult political, legal, professional and security laws."

The Cairo-based, English-language *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported this in its issue of the week of July 18-24.

The report said nothing about the censorship, general harassment, occasional torture, and vandalism, including arson, to which journalists and newspapermen have been subjected in "Palestine" by Yasser Arafat and Jibril Rajoub's hoodlums.

As Peter Hitchens wrote in the July 5 *Daily Express*, describing a visit to our region, "Welcome to Palestine, the first country to be criticized by Amnesty International before it even officially exists."

Ask Bassem Eid, the "Palestinian" human-rights activist. (Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner, codirector of the Jerusalem-based IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis.)



Find the mountaintop, start the journey

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse - the blessing, if you hearken unto the commandments of the Lord your God... and the curse, if you shall not hearken unto the commandments... You shall set the blessing upon Mt. Gerizim and the curse upon Mt. Ebal."

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHILOMO RISKIN

WHEN Shakespeare wrote: "All's well that ends well," he implied that if one's goal was not achieved, then one's life could not be considered well lived. This contradicts the opening portion of *Re'eh* quoted above, which suggests that the way in which one lives is far more important than either one's goals or accomplishments.

Let us examine the passage. First of all, despite the parallel structure of the English translation, the Hebrew uses two different terms for the word "if." "The blessing, if you hearken unto the commandments" uses the Hebrew word *asher*, while "the curse, if you shall not hearken" employs the Hebrew word *im*. Why these two forms of speech?

Secondly, as the passage continues, the Torah identifies the concept of blessing and curse with two mountains. How do mountains become the symbol of a blessing and a curse? And even if there is a way to assign blessings and curses to mountains, why should Gerizim be associated with a blessing and Ebal with a curse, and not the other way around?

Finally, would it not have better served the Torah's purposes had the text vividly spelled out the glories of the blessing and the horrors of the curse? Why speak in such general terms?

R. Eliezer, in *Devarim Raba* (4:3), teaches that when we look about us and consider our world, we ought to realize that blessings and curses do not primarily emanate from Divine decree; we create our own good and evil consequences. Good deeds bear good fruit, and evil deeds bear evil fruit.

The Malbim (1809-1879) compares God's ultimatum to a doctor telling a sick patient: "If you follow these directions, you will become healthy. If you don't, you'll die." If the patient defies the doctor, no one ought attribute his death to the physician.

With this in mind, Rashi explains the difference in linguistic usage. The word *asher* is conditional as well as immediate: obey the commandments and you shall be blessed immediately, for the blessing is the natural and guaranteed outcome of your good deeds. If, however, you defy the commandments, the curse will follow - but not necessarily immediately. The Hebrew word *im* connotes possibility rather than certainty.

As to why one mountain should be associated with blessing and another with curses, Nahmanides posits that Mt. Gerizim (the mountain associated with blessings) was to the south, which means the right side, and therefore represents God's righteousness, blessing and warmth. Mt. Ebal was to the north, symbolic of coldness or distance.

But we still must link the conceptual terrain of blessing and curse with the geographical formation of a mountain. If we look again at the passage in question, the curse comes from not keeping the commandments, which the text tells us is a result of *v'sartem min haderech*, wandering from the path.

Now what connects the idea of blessings and curses to the mountains on the horizon before us is the path we take. In fact, Nahmanides stresses the word *derech* (path) when he interprets the opening verse of our portion, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse," to mean "...the road to blessing [*derech bracha*] and the road to curses [*derech klala*]."

God really presents us this day with the

choice of two paths, one leading to blessings atop the mountain and the other leading to curses atop the mountain.

Now if we take Nahmanides' idea of the "road to blessing and curses," and combine it with Rashi's idea that the blessing starts with the commitment to keep the commandments, while the curse often doesn't come right away, the meaning of our text emerges more clearly:

By directing my life toward God and His commandments, I turn my very path into a blessing. It's not only reaching the top of the mountain that matters; the rewards are built into the path itself. After all, "The [true] reward of every commandment is the commandment itself," teach the Sages. The important thing is the *derech*, the path, the climb upwards - and every step is a blessing.

But if your goal is the oorth, the cold mountain of calculations, making all choices only in terms of getting to the top, then if you succeed, you may well say "all's well that ends well." But if you fail, or even if you succeed materially but fail spiritually, if you build an empire but lose your soul, the fruit of success will turn to ashes in your mouth; and the path shall have become a road to destruction.

We create our own blessings and curses, but much depends on the goals we set for ourselves. Tell me your goals, and I can describe your lifestyle. Show me the "top of your mountain," and the path you take will be mapped out in advance.

If the goal is to achieve closeness to God, justice and compassion - the blessing will begin at the first step upwards. If the goal is divorced from spirituality and commitment to others, but is rather a dream of material wealth or power, an individual may appear to be succeeding, but the success will be short-lived.

We must all find the right mountaintop, and then begin a blessed journey. *Shabbat Shalom*

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South dealer
North-South vulnerable

North
♠ J 5 4
♥ 9
♦ K Q J 7 3 2
♣ K Q 2

West (Stansby)
♠ 10 7
♥ K Q 10 7 6 4
♦ A 8 5
♣ J 4

East (Martel)
♠ K 9 8 3
♥ A J 8 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 8 3

South
♠ A Q 6 2
♥ 5 3
♦ 9
♣ A 10 9 7 6 5

South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♦ 3 ♣
pass 4 ♥ 5 ♣ (all pass)

Hampson and Perry Johnson.
Today's deal is from the final set. The bidding began with a light one-club opening on the South hand and a one-heart overcall by West.
North bid his diamonds and East jumped to three hearts, a preemptive raise. South passed and West continued to four hearts.
This contract could have been doubled for a set of 500 points to North-South (indeed, it was at the other table), but North was afraid to pass it around to South, who would have doubled. He wasn't sure this pass would be forcing. So he risked a bid of five clubs and this became the final contract.
It was a lucky contract as well. With clubs splitting 2-2, diamonds 3-3 and the spade king in front of the ace-queen, it appeared there was no way to defeat it, but Stansby and Martel found a way.
Stansby led the king of hearts and Martel (East) signaled with the 8. In their methods, this high card was discouraging, calling for a shift to spades.
Stansby, however, applied a brilliant deduction: If his partner held the ace of spades, he would have overtaken the king of hearts with the ace to lead a low spade back. This would force South to guess the spade position if South held the king without the queen.
Since East did not overtake the king of hearts with his ace, East could not hold the ace of spades. So Stansby looked for a different defense that might work. He continued hearts to force declarer to ruff in dummy.
At trick three, declarer called for the king of diamonds, taken by Stansby with the ace, the defenders' second trick. Now Stansby carefully returned a diamond, rather than make the revealing switch to spades. Declarer won in dummy and cashed the king of clubs. Stansby threw the jack under this!

THE American Contract Bridge League's summer nationals began last weekend at the Fountainsbleau Hotel in Miami Beach, which is situated on the beach-lined pink-flamingo Atlantic coast.
Traditionally, the summer games are held in a resort city, but in order to keep the prices of rooms reasonable, the organizers try to hold the championships at out-of-season locales. Winter tournaments are sometimes held, for example, in Buffalo or Toronto, amidst blistering ice and snow.
Not to worry, however, here in Miami the air conditioning is perfected even if the temperature outside is oppressive. The top bridge coaches all agree: If you want to play your best at the tables, stay away from the pool in the morning, where the sun will melt your mind.

THE FIRST big championship was the conclusion of the Grand National Teams, an event that began almost a year ago. In every city around the country, teams competed to be first in their district.
The top 24 teams flew to Miami to play for the national title. After a round-robin, quarterfinal and semifinal, the final match, held Sunday, came down to teams from Michigan and San Francisco.
The result was a victory for San Francisco: Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Hugh Ross, Ralph Buchalter, Ron Smith and Kyle Larsen. They were ahead by 12 imps going into the final set of 16 deals, but defeated their opponents by 52 imps in that set to win by 64. Their opponents were Chuck Burger, Allan Falk, Geoff



The barn sparrow: There are seven species of sparrows found in Israel.

Seven species of sparrows

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

I doubt if there is anyone around that does not recognize the common house sparrow, *Passer domesticus* in Latin, *dror* in Hebrew. This ubiquitous little bird, originating in Europe, has successfully colonized most of the world. From a few pairs introduced more than a century ago in the US they now number at least a billion on the North American continent, not to mention South America. You see them everywhere, the cocky little male with his black bib and his dowdy wife in grayish brown, foraging even underfoot in the heart of the cities.
But in Israel there are other sparrows, six others, to be exact, of two genera and in all seven species. The Spanish sparrow, *Passer hispaniolensis* or *dror sfaradi*, is rarely defined since the

female is indistinguishable from the female house sparrow. The male, however, has a chestnut crown and black streaks on both sides. It also has a deeper voice than the house sparrow. Unlike its relative, the Spanish sparrow nests in trees and bushes and stays away from human habitations. Some of these Spanish sparrows are resident but others are either passing migrants or winter visitors.
The rock sparrow, *Petronia petronia* or *dror hasela*, looks like a somewhat oversized female house sparrow but has pale stripes alongside the head and a long stripe along the crown. The wing tips are white and seen only in

flight. There is also a yellow spot on the breast but this is hard to distinguish. This bird is a summer resident and nests in caves and clefts in rocks. Sometimes several pairs nest in colonies.
The yellow-throated sparrow, *Petronia xanthocollis* or *dror tzahov harzavov*, has a chestnut line on the shoulder and double white wing bars, and the male has a yellow throat. This bird is an occasional migrant, appearing usually by what seems to be an accident.
The pale rock sparrow, *Petronia brachyactylis*, in Hebrew *dror hasela habehir* is a rare summer visitor that occasionally nests on the Hermon. This bird looks like a pale version of the house sparrow. It too nests in bushes and trees, avoiding humans.
One of the most interesting is the Dead Sea sparrow, *Passer moabiticus* or *dror yam hamelah*. This bird looks much like a house sparrow but has nutty brown wing coverts and a gray head with a yellow patch on each side. This sparrow nests in tamarisk groves but almost always within 100 meters of water. Although once found only around the Dead Sea the little bird has, in recent years, extended its territory to as far away as Sha'ar Hagolan and Mahanayim.

Double bronze

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

THE claim that Israel's most accomplished sporting achievements are found over the chessboard was reinforced last week by the two bronze medals awarded to Israel's representatives at the European Youth Championships in Slovakia.
Twelve-year-old Lena Dembo took third place in the under 14s, while Netanyahu's Alexander Rabinowitz surprised even himself by matching that performance against the 40-strong field in the under-18 category.
In terms of medals, Dembo and Rabinowitz have in fact twice the nation's tally at the Olympics in Atlanta. Although this equation underscores the pitiful state of Israel's other sports more than highlights our chess successes, chess buffs are again asking how many more World and European champions could the country produce if some serious amounts of money were pumped into the heavily under-funded sport.
Israel's prospects for more future chess glory was boosted last week by the announcement that Sophia Polgar, the middle sister of the prodigious Hungarian trio, will be moving to Israel to be with her new love, former national champion Dr. Yona Kozashvili. But it is unclear whether she plans to represent Israel or her native Hungary in international chess competitions.

which deterred many Carokannists from playing their favored defence. Recent analysis has uncovered many new ideas for Black which have taken the sting out of this system.
4...Nf6, Black strives to delay e6 for as long as possible as it locks in the Queen's Bishop.
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Be6, a very weird, unnatural and even ugly move which would not even be considered by the majority of players as it hems in the bishop on f8. It is however a far better move than it looks.
7.e5?, "haste is waste." This move was aimed at protecting the pawn on c4. But Marten's could not have captured it anyway since he would have found himself a whole piece down after 8.Bxf6 followed by 9.d5
7...h6?! 8.Be3 Bf5 9.Bb5 Qc7 10.Nf3 a6 11.Be2 a6 12.a3, preparing to steamroll his queenside pawn majority.
12...Be7 13.0-0 14.b4 Ne4 15.Rc1 Nxc3 16.Rxc3 Bf6 17.Qd2 g5!, Black's king side pawns are in unstoppable motion.
18.Rd1 Bg7 19.Rb3 Be4 20.a4 21.Qb2 f4! 22.Bc1 g4! 23.Ne1

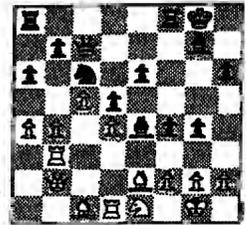


DIAGRAM 1

23...e5!, ripping open the center. 24.f3 gxf3 25.Bxf3 Nxd4 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.Rh3 Qd7 28.Qa2+ Kh7 29.Rd2 E3 0-1

In the following endgame position White is materially ahead and will probably go on to win by carrying out the obvious plan of attacking Black's g pawn with the rook. But with a little imaginative finesse White can determine the fate of the game in only two moves. White to play and win.

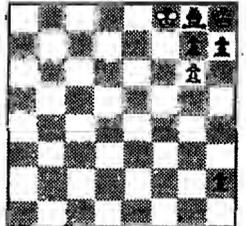


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Rh6!, and Black is in a fatal zugzwang meaning that any move made will lead to an insufferably worse position. 1...gxh6 if the bishop moves then 2.Rxh7+, 2.g7++ 1-0

NEW IMMIGRANT Anatoly Vernick is seeking to set up a Go Federation in Israel. According to Vernick Go, and not chess, is the oldest game in the world still played today.

While its popularity centers mainly in the Far East, it has made its presence strongly felt in the West in recent years with many chess players having been drawn in by its depth and strategy, which Vernick insists do not fall far from that of chess.

However, he points out that in Israel Go has no governing body. So championing the cause of local Go he has taken it upon himself to set up such an organization. Anyone interested in learning and playing the game should contact Vernick on (04) 833-2966.

THE MOST exciting games of chess for spectators are often said to be those in which the players castle on opposite wings of the board and then embark on a pawn storm to try to expose the enemy king.

The following game which won Compuserve's Game of the Month exemplifies the pawn storm principle. The only difference being that both players castled king side.

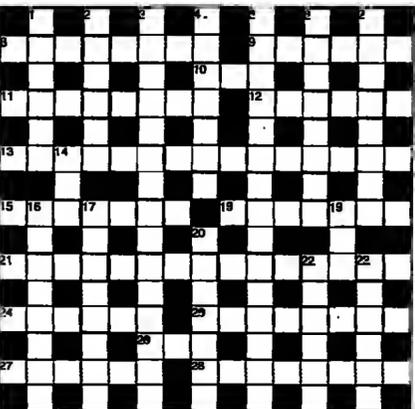
Jensen, Blake Martens, Thomas
Compuserve 1996
Caro Kann Defence Panov-Botvinnik Attack

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4, the Panov-Botvinnik in its beyday was a venomous attack

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 8 Flightly creature on the end of the joint (8)
 - 9 Spoils a prize (6)
 - 10 Clearing part of the field (3)
 - 11 Space to leave behind? (8)
 - 12 Garbo becoming model for another film star (6)
 - 13 Easily working in uniform? (2,5,7)
 - 16 Unusual way with violent anger (7)
 - 18 Caught, say, with snare in the old instrument (7)
 - 21 Make a key opportunity? (6,2,7)
 - 24 It could be so pure for one who affects a particular attitude (6)

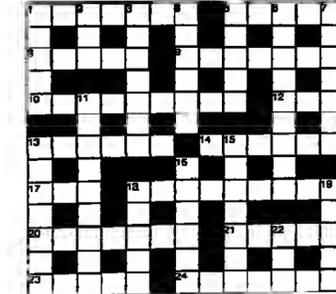
- DOWN**
- 1 Proposal to end the standstill (6)
 - 2 Poisonous whilst having short month in charge (6)
 - 3 Spiritual music? (8,7)
 - 4 Presumed to have included supporter in new deal (7)
 - 5 Firm friend at Newmarket perhaps (6,9)
 - 6 Replacing four in the information that had been overlooked (8)
 - 7 Bob's quicker way (5-3)
 - 14 A little railway up in Scotland (3)
 - 16 Sales of a small pastry case (8)
 - 17 Scholarly in theory (8)
 - 19 He taught Samnal in religious education (3)
 - 20 Theory about the mains I'm diverting (7)
 - 22 Rule over an old Scandinavian (6)
 - 23 Indian antelope ailing badly (6)



SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 5 Flour, 8 Boarders, 9 Acute, 10 Vigilant, 11 Cramp, 14 Sew, 15 Pierce, 17 Amaze, 18 Tax, 20 Begun, 24 Preserve, 25 Waver, 26 Ouster, 27 Jetty.
DOWN: 1 Above, 2 Large, 3 Adult, 4 Cringe, 6 Lacerate, 7 Urticaria, 12 Liberate, 13 Orchestral, 14 Set, 15 Wax, 19 Adroit, 21 Usual, 22 Crate, 23 Heart.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Science of language (7)
 - 5 Receiver (5)
 - 8 Bails (anag) (5)
 - 9 Talked easily (7)
 - 10 Arguing (9)
 - 12 Not many (3)
 - 13 Inheritance (6)
 - 14 Frightened (6)
 - 17 Honey producer (3)
 - 18 Ageing (9)
 - 20 In name only (7)
 - 21 Nawab (5)
 - 23 Spokes (5)
 - 24 Ceramics (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Scoffed (5)
 - 2 Commercial (3)
 - 3 Shellfish (7)
 - 4 Jerk back (6)
 - 5 Small car accident (5)
 - 6 No longer valid (3,2,4)
 - 7 Enriched (7)
 - 11 Proposed (9)
 - 13 Crustacean (7)
 - 15 Having an open mesh (4-3)
 - 16 Enfold (6)
 - 18 Ragout (5)
 - 19 Female cat (5)
 - 22 Extra run (3)

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מלכה מן האל



Thousands flock to reclaimed park

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE thousands of visitors who come to the Lachish River Park in Ashdod every Shabbat may know that the area used to be a virtual open sewer, but that isn't what brings them there. What interests the visitors is the opportunity to walk along the watercourse, with lush green lawns going down to the water's edge. They want to sit on the benches under the wooden pergolas and admire the young trees that will eventually provide more shade.

They want to sit and fish, or just admire the water, on the wooden docks built at regular intervals. They come to walk along the nature trails, cut out through the undergrowth, and to enjoy themselves at the picnic tables tucked away in the shade of the low-lying trees. The visitors are not attracted by the fact that only a few years ago there was so much junk and undergrowth that no one could even approach the watercourse. Nor do they come because industries and local councils alike spewed their wastes into the waterway, which became totally polluted.

It is doubtful if there is anyone living in Ashdod who does not know where the Lachish River Park is located. To find the park from outside Ashdod, drive towards the port from the Ashdod turnoff on the coastal highway until you reach the entrance to the port itself. Turn left and continue across the bridge. Take the first left and you should find the park's main entrance.

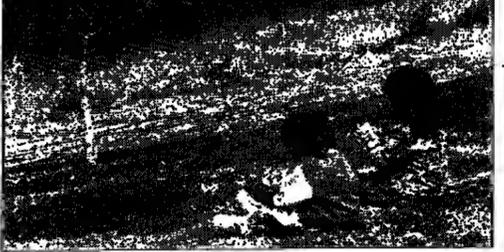
The park is not only the concrete result of the rehabilitation of the waterway, it also constitutes a green belt dividing the town's heavy industry from the residential quarters. On one side of the water are green lawns, on the other are banks of reeds, barely screening the industrial installations.

The park is a joint project of the Jewish National Fund, the Environment and Tourism Ministries and the Ashdod Municipality, with the participation of such industries as the Israel Electric Corporation and the refineries.

According to project director Aviva Harari, the present park, stretching along 2.5 kilometers from the sea inland, is only the first step. Eventually, she would like to see the park extend along the upper stretch of the waterway, where it meanders west of the town. It is here that she would like to establish an outdoor science museum, where youngsters and adults alike would be able to observe phenomena as they occur in nature.

For those who would like to catch a glimpse of the waterway as it once was, and to experience a short lesson in Israel's history, drive back to the coastal highway and turn right, southward, to the Ad Halom Bridge. From the highway, you should be able to see the obelisk of an Egyptian war memorial, erected and maintained by the Egyptian government as part of the peace treaty with that country.

The immaculately cared-for memorial marks the northernmost point to which the Egyptian troops advanced in their push towards Tel Aviv. From here, you should be able to discern a British Mandate pillbox and, if you walk on the path to it, you will also find a rather less immaculately maintained memorial to the Israeli defenders who blew up the bridge and kept the Egyptians from advancing.



Once an ecological nightmare, the Lachish park is now a delightful place to while away a summer afternoon.

Oman puts out welcome mat for Israeli tourists

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

WITH Arab states opening up to Israeli visitors at a record rate, it's hard to find new destinations, but Arkia has come up with a nine-day package tour to the Gulf state of Oman. The \$1,989 pricetag includes bus transportation between Tel Aviv and Amman and flights to and from Oman, as well as tours and accommodations with breakfast. The first tour is scheduled for Sukkot. Israeli passport holders must register at least 21 days in advance.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE, a new tour company specializing in exotic destinations, promises to do so in full luxury. Among its present offerings is a 22-day tour to the sources of the Ganges, including a 15-day trek on foot along the pilgrims' route to the glaciers from which India's holy river springs. The company promises that you need not be a good hiker to take part. The price of the tour is \$3,085.

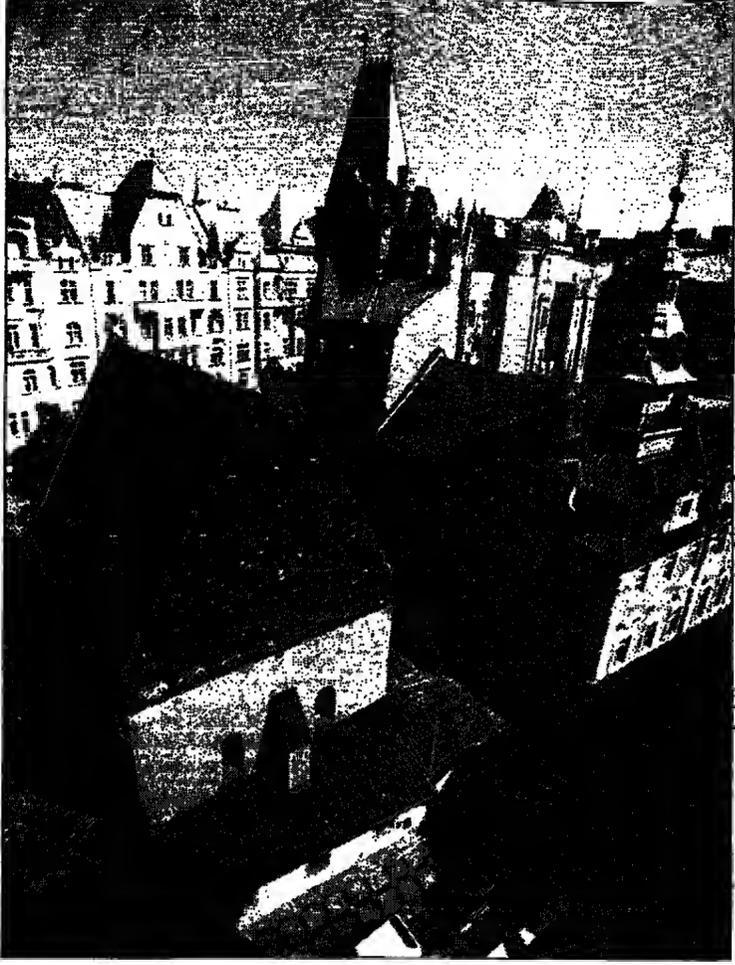
FOR AN adventure tour with an international flair, GAP Adventures, an American tour company specializing in trekking excursions and represented in Israel by Bonissa, offers a wide range of excursions to Latin America. Transportation is by local bus, rivercraft, trains and even mules, while accommodations range from hotels to camping sites. Among the current offerings is an 18-day tour of the rain forests of Costa Rica for \$1,025.

A VARIETY of package vacations in Prague, and Munich are currently available from Histour's Nofest Plus. Among them is one which includes three nights in Prague and a week's rental car in Germany. Prices start at \$785.

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Bohemian days in Prague

Since the Velvet Revolution, an air of excitement and romance has returned to the Czech capital, Tom Gross writes



The historic Old-New Synagogue is one of the many interesting attractions in Prague.

PRAGUE is arguably Europe's most beautiful capital city. Its stunning center has been described as "a work of art" virtually unspoiled by modernity, a living symbol of European civilization of all ages.

Its curves and cobblestones, its domes and spires, its art-nouveau frivolity and Habsburg splendor lend it a fairy-tale quality. If you have even a passing interest in European art, history and culture, a visit there is a must.

In addition, Prague holds particular interest for Israeli visitors as it ranks among the most significant historical centers of Jewish life in Europe (see box).

This is also an ideal time to visit Prague from a historical point of view. Since the Velvet Revolution of November 1989, a spirit of bohemianism has returned to Bohemia and the Czech capital has once again become a place of enjoyment, excitement and romance.

The best way to see the city is on foot. While it has numerous museums - including the splendid art collections of the Sternberg Palace, near Prague Castle, and the recently opened modern-art museum, the finest museum of all is Prague itself.

Mercifully untouched by wartime destruction or other disasters, it seems almost to float in a time warp. Its wealth of architectural styles ranges from Gothic and Baroque to art nouveau and cubist.

Historic Prague is divided into five main quarters: the Old Town, the Jewish Ghetto, the Castle District, the Lesser Town and the New Town.

You should start by wandering through the myriad picturesque streets and alleys in Prague's Stare Mesto (Old Town) until you reach the breathtaking Old Town Square, one of the most magnificent public spaces in Europe.

The square is dominated by its pastel-colored houses, the Jan Hus monument, the Tyn Church, the Church of St. Nicholas and the astronomical clock - where every hour, on the hour, large crowds of sightseers gather to watch a

mechanical performance by figures representing the apostles.

On the other side of the Old Town is the Charles Bridge - traffic-free, and teeming with artists and buskers - spanning the River Vltava. Take a stroll across it beneath the stony gaze of a long line of spectacular Baroque stone saints.

From here, climb up the hill to Hradcanska (the Castle District) which overlooks the city; explore the castle's courtyards, its cathedral and galleries and the beautiful gardens by the Belvedere Palace.

Then walk down Zlata Ulicka (Golden Lane), whose lines of tiny, 16th-century, pastel-washed cottages have been transformed into studios and shops selling arts, crafts and gifts.

AT THE HEART of the New Town is Wenceslas Square - which is not actually a square at all, but a 600-meter long boulevard. This was the site where the dissident playwright (now President) Vaclav Havel led the Velvet Revolution, when an estimated one million people gathered in the square and the surrounding streets and jingled their key rings in a symbolic ringing which signaled the death knell of communism.

It is in the New Town where the economic boom currently being experienced by Prague is most noticeable.

Before 1989, a Western car or neon light was a rare sight, and shop windows were stacked with unwanted tin goods. Now the city has sprung to life and streets which were dull and lifeless have been transformed by new state-of-the-art stores and glitzy showrooms, restaurants and cafes.

Prague also has an exceptionally rich classical musical heritage. You can choose among three opera houses and a variety of concert halls and churches, such as the beautiful Church of St. Simon and Judah and the magnificent Rudolfinum concert hall.

You may also wish to try something peculiarly Czech such as the Black Theater or the Laterna

Magika.

Other atmospheric hangouts include the Reduta Jazz Club (located on Narodni 20), where Bill Clinton played sax when he visited Prague, and the cafe-bar, Velryba (Opatovicka 33). For the younger visitor, a great place to dance in summer is Club Lavka, located on an island just under the Charles Bridge.

Club Radost (Belhradská 120) is the premier place for Prague's beautiful people. The pounding beat of the disco downstairs contrasts with the soothing atmosphere of the comfortable lounge, gallery and vegetarian cafe upstairs. The Roxy (Dlouha 33) will attract those who prefer a more grunge-type venue.

Since the Iron Curtain was torn down, Prague has rapidly become one of the world's major tourist destinations - according to official sources a staggering 70 million tourists visited the city last year.

But more than four decades of communism have left their mark, and inefficiency, shoddy service and cheating remain common place. Despite the burgeoning tourist industry, finding a good place to stay can still be extremely difficult.

A notable exception is Hotel Intercontinental (tel. [00422] 2488-1111; fax 2488-0071; bookings for this hotel can also be made here in Israel on [03] 538-8461).

It has recently completed a \$45 million refurbishment and, although it has unfortunately been unable to alter the 1970s Socialist-style exterior, everything else has changed. While not cheap, it's centrally located (as well as being a convenient few meters walk away from the Jewish town) and now clearly provides the best all-round ser-

vice in Prague. (Beware certain other "top" hotels which have given misleading information to international travel agents about their locations.)

Until 1989, Prague was like a beautiful city covered by a thick layer of dust. Now it's brimming

with life and vitality. Before the city completes its journey into the modern age and loses some of its romance, this is a great time to visit.

As of July 19, Israelis no longer need a visa for the Czech Republic.

A rich but sad Jewish heritage

PRAGUE'S Jewish Museum - believed to be the most visited Jewish site in the world outside of Israel - is also the most impressive of its kind in Europe.

This is in part due to the fact the Nazis selected Prague as the site for what they hoped would house a macabre "Museum of an Extinct Race." As a result, most of the buildings and artifacts survive there.

Recently returned by the Czech government to the local Jewish community, the museum (spread across several buildings and synagogues) is presently undergoing various changes. The permanent exhibitions in the Maisel and Klaus synagogues have been changed and the painstaking restoration in the Pinkas Synagogue of the Czech Holocaust "Memorial of Names" (which was destroyed by the Communist authorities after the Six Day War) has just been completed. (The beautiful Spanish Synagogue will reopen in 1998 with an exhibition on Jewish life before the war.)

Just off Parizska Street, formerly the principal thoroughfare of the old Jewish Ghetto and now home to some of Prague's most fashionable shops, is the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest functioning synagogue in Europe.

Nearby lies one of the most haunting sights of Prague, Jany's Jewish Cemetery, whose tightly packed mass of 12,000 tombs creates a chaotic and rather eerie beauty. (The actual number of people buried there is much greater.)

Make sure also to visit the small Ceremonial House to the immediate right of the cemetery entrance. This contains an exhibition of Czech art and poetry recovered from Terezin (Theresienstadt), one of the best-preserved Holocaust museums in Europe.

In the New Town, by Zelivskeho metro station, is Prague's first Jewish cemetery. Whereas the old cemetery seems to be constantly crowded with tourists, this new one, also located in a beautiful setting, is often overlooked by visitors. Among the graves there is that of Franz Kafka.

In order to explore further the rich Czech Jewish heritage, it is advisable to contact Wittman Tours (tel./fax [00422] 251-235), which organizes a wide range of guides, trips and lectures (as well as a "welcoming Shabbat" in Czech and English every Friday). T.G.

Land of pork and dumplings

THERE is grease among the gold. Prague may be the "Golden City" of 100 spires, seven hills and 138 different beers, but it also has mountains of dumplings and fried cheese.

Although the culinary situation is now much better than it was in Communist times - when all restaurant meals had to be prepared according to instructions in the state book, *Recipes for Warm Meals* - finding good places to eat can pose a problem, especially if you keep kosher.

The Czech love of pork and dumplings is so great that even McDonald's has found it necessary to add an extra item on the menu of its Prague restaurants: the McBacek, a burger with a layer of pork placed on top of the beef.

There are a few exceptions. For fine dining in the evening try Panas (tel. 2422-7614), located on Smetanova nabrezí. Ask for a window seat, where the view is of the castle, which is dramatically and magnificent lit up at night. For a daytime panorama of the whole city, have lunch at Nebozizek,

perched on Petrin Hill and reached by cable car.

La Provence in the Old Town (tel. 232-4801) has some reasonable French food, and the very lively Banana Bar above it is constantly packed with beautiful young people. The city's few good restaurants fill up, so booking is a must.

The kosher restaurant in the old Jewish town is overpriced and not very good, but Orthodox visitors don't have a great deal of choice. You should also look out for a new Jewish deli, which an Israeli entrepreneur is due to open soon.

Prague does, however, have some lively and elegant cafes. For a turn-of-the-century atmosphere try the Europa Cafe on Wenceslas Square.

Two favorite hangouts for many of the international artists and writers now living in Prague are the bookstore-coffee houses. The Globe Cafe (on Janovskeho street in Prague's 7th district) and U Knihomola (Manesova Street, near the Church of the Sacred Heart, a stunning piece of 1930s architecture). T.G.

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Arad: The song remained the same, but the festival didn't

Keren Markuze finds a dismal atmosphere at this year's Arad Festival

THE people of Arad looked forward to this week with mounting hope and trepidation. One year after the tragedy of the 1995 Arad Festival, in which three youths were crushed to death, locals wondered: Would anyone come back?

Sadly, few did - and most of those who did wished they hadn't. Instead of being jam-packed with eager youths, as it had been every previous year, Arad played host to noticeably thin crowds - with about as many parents as children.

Locals strolled through the city center, looking about expectantly for some of the comfortingly unfamiliar faces that enter the city this time every year giving a vital boost to its economy and image. Few arrived. Instead of impulsive teenagers buying earrings and hair wraps, parents held little children by the hand, buying them hats and t-shirts from the street vendors who stood about bewildered at their lack of customers.

Auditoriums and concert halls remained half empty, as singers performed to an audience whose average age was 40 years old. Young Arad residents who spent a whole year looking forward to this festival sat dejectedly on benches. Those who did come from outside the city bitterly talked of returning home.

The future of the Arad festival, however, was never going to be dependent on the turnout or the profits, but on the result of the nation's year-long battle to come to terms with the death of the three youths. The deaths of Na'ama Al-Kariv, Chen Yitzhak and Eitan Peled at last year's Mashina concert in Arad stunned the nation and left the fate of the Arad festival, which had become a long-standing tradition, up in the air.

Indeed, festival supporters had

been dismayed by the families' efforts to stop the festival from taking place. Comparing last year's tragedy to the recent Atlanta bombing, supporters pointed out that there the games continued. Using car accidents as an analogy, they emphasized that nobody stops driving as a result. Giving the example of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, they said singing was in fact the appropriate way to express mourning.

After heated debates, and a series of surveys and polls, the festival was set to take place once again, but this year serious changes were made in terms of security and logistics, and the festival's artistic content. This resulted in a festival which the organizers call "less commercial," parents label "more cultured," but which the youth have deemed "a failure."

THE CITY of Arad was tense on Monday night as it waited expectantly to catch a first glimpse of the turnout. But disappointment prevailed as the city remained empty. Vendors were having second thoughts. Security guards walked around aimlessly. By Tuesday morning the situation had not improved. At the bag check near the main campground, only a total of five bags had been deposited. At the one in the center of town one lone bag sat in the huge lot. Walking the streets were mostly locals, parents and young children. As one youth said, "The freaks aren't out this year."

However, this situation was not unexpected. Organizers and attendees alike had foreseen this decreased turnout. The festival reforms beckoned a new audience. According to festival director Nachum Langsan, organizing this

year's festival was like beginning a brand new building, for which no plans existed. Taking into account new security measures, the refusal of certain key performers to take part in the festival and the overriding need to create a sense of comfort and safety, the festival's organizers paved the way for something different.

"The point of this festival is not to sell a lot of tickets, but for creative development," Langsan said, pointing out the local acts the festival was hosting, as well as the variety of music, including jazz, alternative rock and a rock opera.

In practical terms, this meant a tribute to Moshe Vilensky, Shmuelik Krauss, another tribute to Zohar Argov - in short, the oldies. This amounted to what the youth were quickly calling a catastrophe. Although these new performers were recruited to fill in the gaps created by the absence of the regulars, such as Shlomo Artzi and Aviv Geffen, who protested this year's festival, claiming it was inappropriate after last year's tragedy, criticism has been directed at these artists for their decisions.

"After Rabin's assassination great singers sat there and sang. It's a way to express hurt and mourning. That's what will be happening here, and I'm sorry they don't want to perform," Langsan said.

Arad Mayor Bezalel Tabib expressed his disappointment in those singers who protested the festival in his speech at the opening of the festival.

"Those that said they don't want to perform got a ride on the festival's back in order to get famous," he said.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Khalani shared this sentiment. At the same event, he stated, "An artist that's an artist should know his job is to be on stage and give the audience pleasure. We live in a country that is difficult to live in, but one of the things that unites us is song and dance."

Despite this condemnation, the protest of those such as Artzi was



effective in discouraging teens from going to Arad. Ronit Hashdi, 20, from Arad, attributed the low turnout to the scheduled performances.

"They have to do shows that are 'on the level' in order for people to come. If they don't they shouldn't expect people to come," she said.

"I saw that not many famous Israeli singers were coming, so I knew not many people would come," emphasized Juh, a vendor at the festival, whose clothes were not selling because there was nobody around to buy them.

Shlomi Ben-Hann, 22, from Arad, used to sell clothing from India at the festival, but decided against it this year out of fear that

nothing would sell.

"One day before it is usually busy," Ben-Hann pointed out on Monday, "this year it is not."

A security guard said he spent most of his shift on Tuesday sitting and chatting with friends.

"They put on all this security so people would feel more comfortable sending their kids, but we aren't doing anything. The biggest thing we had to do all day was pick up a fallen shopping cart off the street," he explained.

For the local youth, who look forward to these three days for the entire year, the low turnout was very depressing. By Wednesday morning they stopped fooling themselves that people may show up.

"It's a sad situation," Hashdi said, "Usually Arad fills up with fun and performances. You meet strange people. This year there are less people."

"The Egged station looks miserable and empty, without a living soul," another youth said.

BUT JUST down the road from there, sat the families of the three victims of last year's festival, and for the first time in a year they did not feel miserable and empty. While the youth of Arad and those that came from around the country inoped about complaining of boredom, the victims' families benefited from this peacefulness to speak with Mayor Tabib and other citi-

zens of Arad, to finally explain what they wanted from the city.

"What we want is to remember Arad not as a city of blood, but as a city that does justice," stated Emmanuel Al-Kariv, father of Na'ama. He explained that until now they could not talk about their pain, but now they are ready to start anew. For the first time, Al-Kariv wanted to speak of solutions, discussing means such as identification, and dialogue to "make our pain smaller."

Tabib sat for several hours with the families, and proposed various suggestions for memorials. He indicated the most probable one is the dedication of a park to be located at the entrance of the city, where "kids will come and it will be alive." In addition, a commemorative ceremony will be held there every year, and possibly the Arad festival will commence there annually.

"I didn't want to do anything without their consent," Tabib explained, "but now that they are willing to cooperate, we will do it willingly and with a commitment."

Although Tabib claimed to have no "problems with my conscience" in hosting this year's festival, he said that he now felt less burdened.

"I felt tension yesterday. The whole city felt that way. The second the discussions [with the families] started the tension disappeared," he said. "The festival had to happen because if not it risked disappearing forever. It's a tradition. It was like the flag of the city, and the flag you don't take down."

On that first day, Tabib said he already felt the festival was a success.

"If the festival led to this meeting, then 'it justified itself,'" he said.

But the nation's youth, towards whom the festival was meant to be aimed, were left standing on the sidelines, no longer sure where their place was at this event. Unlike the victims' families, they were not in pursuit of closure, but of continuity. However, they didn't find any. What they found instead was a new festival, a new atmosphere and no new people.

Good things come in small packages

GOOD things come in small packages, and the small package which Pina Herzog presented to newly appointed ambassador to the US Elisha Ben-Elissar at the farewell reception she hosted for him and his wife Nitza contained not only a message, but closed a circle.

It was a cassette tape of the famous debate in which Herzog's late husband Ya'acov Herzog, then Israel's ambassador to Canada, brilliantly refuted the arguments of British historian Arnold Toynbee who contended that Jews are the fossils of history and charged that Israel, due to its treatment of the Palestinians, could be equated with the Nazis.

A visibly moved Ben-Elissar recalled that in 1961, when he was working for the Mossad, he and other agents had been summoned to a small apartment in Tel Aviv by then Mossad chief Isser Harel, who told them he had a tape which they must all hear. Almost mesmerized, they had listened in rapt silence to that very debate.

International human rights lawyer Cotler, professor of McGill University, who the day after the scoldoff, the 21 Makor is equally nostalgic. (6.2.7) in January, 1961, was one of the who

debate's organizers.

ARRIVING WITH his wife Sara at the tail end of the Ben-Elissar affair, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu thanked his hostess for taking him away "from the quiet waters of Israeli politics." One of the first people to greet Netanyahu was his aunt, retired Supreme Court judge Soshana Netanyahu, who was one of many members of the legal fraternity among the guests. There were so many, in fact, that the event resembled a law convention. Others included Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, former justice minister Moshe Nissim, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Judges Gabriel Bach and Eli Rubinfeld, former Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau, former president Chaim Herzog, who is a lawyer by profession, former ambassador to the US Meir Rosenne, also a lawyer, famous American lawyer and Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz, eminent Jerusalem lawyer Joseph Kollek, and several other promi-

nent figures in the field.

BREAKING NEWS on major events in the US prevented CNN's Larry King from coming to Jerusalem to show his favorite city in the world to his non-Jewish daughter Chasia, who had never been to Israel before. King was to have participated in the Aish Hatorah Summer Solidarity Mission and in the gala Knesset presentation dinner of the prestigious Jerusalem 3000 awards, of which King was one of the recipients. His daughter, who attended with her Jordanian fiancé Khaled al Habashibi, accepted in his stead. But King nonetheless had guests howling with laughter as he reminisced via satellite shmooz about boyhood escapades in Brooklyn. An ardent Aish Hatorah Jewish renaissance supporter (despite his own lack of religious observance), he promised to be in Jerusalem no later than next spring.

WHILE A large segment of the

population attended the hyped-up egalitarian wedding of rock star Aviv Geffen to Ilana Berkowitz, in which both the bride and the groom broke a glass to remind them of the destruction of the Temple; another large segment of the population crowded into the Gutnick Community Center in Hebron to celebrate the wedding of Ziv Ritchie and Galit Jamil. Ritchie, like Geffen, is also 23 and sings and plays the guitar. But his songs are those of his mentor, the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. It was with these that he serenaded his Yemenite bride prior to the ceremony, and the hundreds of guests joined him in a joyous chorus. An hour earlier, the bride, clad in her wedding gown, went to pray at the grave of Sarah the matriarch. It was a wedding in the true Carlebach spirit. The date coincided with the anniversary of the Hebron massacre of 1929 to demonstrate the rebirth of a Jewish presence in the area.

PREEMPTING THE huge Geffen-Berkowitz bash on the Tel Aviv beachfront was the wedding in Jerusalem last Thursday of Tali



Galit Jamil and Ziv Ritchie at their wedding on the roof of the Gutnick Center in Hebron adjacent to the Tomb of the Patriarchs. (Chiaschi/2)

Turgeman to Eli Bilikous. The decade-plus on-again off-again romance culminated in what was more in the nature of a festival than a traditional wedding reception. Over 1,200 guests who converged on the King David Hotel were treated

to side shows of flame throwers, belly dancers, suit walkers, disco dancers and much more. And many of those who asked for cocktails at one of the bars found themselves confronting a loaded gun. It was a water pistol employed to shoot bev-

crages straight into people's mouths. The bride is the daughter of senior Jerusalem City Council official Zion Turgeman and his wife, Tirza; and the groom is the son of casino star Ezra Bilikous and his wife, Tereza.

TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

First tour full, book for second tour!

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, Kfar Haruv and Mitzpe Shalom, the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzin, the Druse village of Ein Kinaya, Emek Habacha, Kibbutz Ein Zivan, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wild animals.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, Sept. 4 and 5, 1996.

The price: NIS 550. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second.

Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.

ATTACKS

(Continued from Page 8)

immodest clothing is absolutely forbidden. are not responsible for damage caused to those who disobey. You have been warned."

From that time, secular women in the area have been cursed, screamed at, spat upon, manhandled and even stoned. Many have had their cars vandalized.

Last week, a handful of posters denouncing the attacks appeared on walls in Mea She'arim and neighboring Geula. They were signed by Rabbi Moshe Freund, of the Eda Haredit. By this week they were all but buried under a new crop of announcements, most of them commercial.

Wall posters are an important means of communication in the

haredi community, which eschews television sets and non-haredi radio stations and newspapers.

A few posters, in bus stops and on walls - vastly outnumbered and outshone by Day-Glo colored commercial posters advertising everything from, half-priced porcelain to music schools to bus trips to the Golan - attempt to legislate modest dress, not among secular women, but among haredi women.

One of these, on Rehov Hayel Adam, proclaims a halachic decision. "We were horrified to hear that at some beaches where there is separate bathing, on the days that women bathe there gangs of male lifeguards circulate among them, in the water and near the dressing rooms. Vendors of ice cream and sweets are also permit-

ted to circulate there. Terrible danger lurks there for the purity of the daughters of Israel... It is forbidden to go there."

"We have also said several times that it is forbidden for women to bathe in a bathing suit... but only in a long robe. [signed] Moshe Ari Freund."

Another poster, in a bus stop on Rebov Malchei Yisrael, purports to be the words of the late Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, calling on haredi women to stop wearing wigs and cover their heads with scarves.

WHAT TO an outsider seems an obsessive involvement with female modesty is the primary social and cultural practice that constitutes the identity of ultra-Orthodoxy, according to Dr. Tamar El-Or, of the Hebrew

University's sociology and anthropology department.

This is because it enables them to define the limits between themselves and the National Religious groups, and between themselves and the secular population. "It's all about who is a true Jew," said El-Or, the author of *Educated and Ignorant*, a study of the education of haredi women.

The members of Toldot Aharon, who live near the Education Ministry and have been involved in the attacks on its workers, are among the most extreme in the haredi community and take pride in their self-imposed role of demarcating the limits, she said.

Take, for example, the matter of wigs. Although centuries ago the rabbis - unable to withstand the pressure of fashion - allowed the wearing of wigs as a compromise, today wearing a wig is generally considered strict observance of the dictates of modesty, El-Or said. But the women of Toldot Aharon are even more punctilious, being the only haredi women who shave their heads and cover them with scarves.

According to El-Or, the appearance of wall posters decrying a practice is sometimes, but not always, an indication that the practice is rampant. Unlike the members of Toldot Aharon, many haredim do swim at beaches, she said, and many haredi families come to the beach together, though the women do wear robes over their bathing suits.

These issues tend to come to a head when temperatures rise. "In the summer there's always haredi violence in Jerusalem. It's hot, under the clothes, under the wig. The [secular] women are dressed more scantily," Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya, of Bar-Ilan University's political science department, also sees a seasonal element in the current spat

of attacks. "These things come in waves," he said.

And like El-Or, he sees the violent attacks on secular women as an expression of a community under siege.

"This is a community that is very closed, but they don't live on an island," said Don-Yehiya, who specializes in the relation between religion and politics. "Israeli society is very close by and the more permissive it becomes the more it disturbs them and the higher they try to raise the barricades around themselves."

But the more extreme elements of the haredi world while concerned with the behavior of the secular public, are even more worried about what is happening within their own community. "The larger haredi public is more open, has more contacts with the government, can't get by without state institutions. All this has an effect, and the Eda Haredit [of which Toldot Aharon is a part] is afraid the outside influences will filter down to them."

And contrary to what many people believe, it doesn't make sense to explain the attacks primarily as "the haredim feeling their new political power." Groups like Toldot Aharon don't vote and so are unlikely to take pride in the achievements of the haredi parties, he said.

Nevertheless, he agrees the attacks are part of a culture war over the future character of Jerusalem, now exemplified by the Rehov Bar-Ilan battle. Both sides feel extremely threatened, he said, and the more defensive they feel, the higher the barricades.

He cited a similar battle about seven years ago over the Shabbat closure of Rehov Hashomer in Bnei Brak.

"The difference between Rehov Hashomer and Rehov Bar-Ilan," he said, "is that the secular people have given up on Bnei

THE JEWISH FESTIVALS AND HOLY DAYS



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האנא מן הלאה

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, August 9, 1996

BITS AND BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Israel Assoc. of Venture Capital Investors teams up with European counterpart...

Jerusalem Global Consultants signs deal with Japanese corp.:

Magic and IBM sign deal: Magic Software Enterprises recently announced that it has entered into a software vendor marketing agreement with IBM.

Makhveit-Scops to market products in Scandinavia: Makhveit-Scops has announced plans to represent a number of Israeli companies in marketing their products throughout Europe.

Scitex announces joint venture with Imation Corp.: Scitex Corp. announced a joint venture agreement with Imation Corp. to integrate the Realist print engine developed by Iris Graphics.

Team Computers wins tender to computerize local payroll dept.: Team Computers has won a tender worth NIS 15 million over the next five years to computerize the payroll department of the Employment Service.

Dimona Textiles expected to reopen after cash injection

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE bankrupt Dimona Textiles Ltd. is expected to renew production in less than two weeks...

About two weeks ago, Asher Shenkopf agreed to lend \$4 million to Dimona Textiles to prevent its closure.

Shenkopf must still finalize an agreement with the government, creditors, and employees...

Attorney Richard Roberts, who represents Shenkopf in Israel, said the application to the court, which is similar to Chapter 11 in the US...

Dimona's debts are estimated at \$17m.

Roberts refused to reveal the details of the option agreement.

isolation this is up to nine months. We want to see if we can operate the company profitably...

Shenkopf is expected to return to Israel on Sunday, having spent the past week in Europe examining Dimona's backlog of orders and export potential for 1997.

Roberts said it was imperative for the plant to resume work as soon as possible...

According to Roberts, the plant's temporary closure is likely to have hurt domestic sales for the fall holiday season...

Shenkopf's plans to operate the firm involve employing only 70% of the plant's 280 workers.

Avi Yitzbak, general manager of Dimona Textiles, said he expects an agreement with the workers and the Histadrut to be reached in two weeks.

Privatization plan may be unveiled next week

DAVID HARRIS and MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE government "is likely" to present a final list of companies slated for privatization next week...

Senior government sources said that while there will be "surprises" on the list, it will not tackle head on the big monopolies...

Both Meridor and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have made it clear on several occasions that while they believe privatization to be important, they see demopolitization as far more pressing.

make these changes without a struggle, and that this will pass quietly, is mistaken. It isn't easy, but we'll do it."

Meridor told reporters, in an apparent reference to the Electric Corp.

Shohat said he saw a document, formulated by a committee set up by Netanyahu and Meridor, in which more taxes are proposed on health services, labor costs, and other fields.

tracking from the budget cuts it had declared, Shohat accused Netanyahu of not understanding either the budget or the needs of the ministries and of giving up its original budget plan.

"We see before us a prime minister who blows soap bubbles, which are bursting one by one," he said.

Meridor, however, also pledged to discuss the plans for structural changes in the economy with the Histadrut.

industrial action if the changes are perceived to affect workers' rights.

The two said they are prepared to consider various alternative ways to cut NIS 4.9 billion from next year's budget.

They are keen to ensure the cuts currently on the table be largely adhered to, and say they are convinced the measures will not hurt the economically weak.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that one such plan, conceived by Likud MK Meir Sheenit, has arrived at the prime minister's table...

Dozens of social welfare groups have condemned the cabinet-approved proposals to change child allowances.

The plan recommends halving child allowances for the first two children in families with four children, where the main breadwinner earns between the average wage and 150 percent of its value.

IEC '95 profits down 30%

COMPANY RESULTS DAVID HARRIS and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE Israel Electric Corporation yesterday announced net profits of NIS 273 million last year, compared to NIS 392m. in 1994.

In the first quarter of this year, net profits reached NIS 224m. Profits stood at NIS 69m. in the corresponding period in 1995.

Speaking after accepting the company's annual report and figures for the first quarter, chairman Gad Ya'acobi said the company wants to finance itself by investing at home and abroad.

Managing director Rafi Peled said the 9.4% increase in demand through last year was the largest in the Western world, where the average growth is an annual 1% to 2%.

Lehman Brothers attributed the fall-off to higher selling expenses, adding that sales and marketing as a percentage of sales are likely to be higher than expected over the next several quarters.

Sales for the quarter increased 14% to \$75.4m. from \$66.1m. the year before.

Based in Haifa, Elscint manufactures and markets diagnostic imaging equipment, including computer tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and nuclear medicine systems.

ECI Telecom announced an 11% increase in second-quarter net income to \$24.08m. compared to \$21.60m. in the corresponding period last year.

Revenues for the period were up 27% to \$139.3m., compared to \$110m. for the comparable period in 1995.

The company said that the results were favorably impacted by the growth in sales, particularly of its SDH and Access Network product lines.

"A fax for you" All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes. ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

HAS THE GOLD RUSH BEGUN?

On July 9, world-renowned investment analyst Brian Marber advised subscribers in his newsletter, The Marber Report, to buy spot gold at \$383 per ounce or better (October gold equivalent \$386).

Since that prediction, October gold has risen to a high of \$393.50 per ounce. That means a potential profit of \$750 per contract on an initial investment of \$1350 — more than a 55% potential return in one month.

The Marber Report is represented in Israel exclusively by CommStock Trading Ltd. For details on subscribing and additional information on investing in futures, please call Michael Zwebner at our Jerusalem office, (02) 624-4963.

The Marber Report covers international currencies, interest rates and precious metals. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Qualified investors only.

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CORRECTION

Oded Shay is founder of Marketest and, along with Danny Geyra, founded the company's subsidiary, Mid-East Marketest.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with 4 columns: Currency (deposit term), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Rows include U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.8.96)

Table with 4 columns: Currency basket, Buy, Sell, Rep. Rates. Rows include U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, French franc, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lire, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, Israeli punt, Spanish peseta.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION AGAINST TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR LTD., DATA SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC. AND OTHERS

On August 1, 1996, a class action lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the district of New Jersey, Civil Action No. 96-3711 (JWB), on behalf of purchasers of the securities of Tower Semiconductor Ltd. ("Tower" or the "Company") between October 30, 1995 and June 10, 1996, inclusive (the "Class Period").

The complaint charges Tower, Data Systems & Software Inc. ("DSSI") and certain of the officers and directors of Tower and DSSI, with violations of Sections 10 (b) and 20 (a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related state law, by, among other things, misrepresenting and/or omitting material information concerning the financial condition and future business prospects of Tower and its relationship with a key customer, Hewlett-Packard Company ("Hewlett-Packard"), during the Class Period.

In a succession of announcements about purportedly increasing earnings, new strategic relationships with key customers and accelerated expansion plans, defendants created and sustained the false impression, before and during the Class Period, that Tower's profitability growth would be maintained and enhanced in 1996 and thereafter through continual upgrade and expansion of the Company's manufacturing facility and monthly wafer output.

Defendants, however, knew or recklessly disregarded that the Company's expansion plans were, at all relevant times, materially overstated. In that regard, defendants knowingly or recklessly failed to disclose that Tower was unsuccessful in developing a specialized manufacturing process for production of customized integrated circuits on silicon wafers for one of its key customers, Hewlett-Packard. While defendants sought to assure the investing public at various points that the development of such process was merely subject to certain ordinary production delays, in fact, Tower was encountering serious technological problems with the development of the process that precluded Hewlett-Packard's acceptance of the process, generated millions of dollars in additional development costs and would have required huge sums to correct (if even possible).

The total loss in market value by Class member purchasers of Tower Ordinary Shares during the Class Period are estimated to be in excess of \$40 million.

Plaintiffs seek to recover damages on behalf of class members and are represented by the law firms of Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP ("Milberg Weiss") and Lowey Dannenberg Bemporad & Selinger, P.C. ("Lowey Dannenberg"), who have significant experience and expertise prosecuting class actions on behalf of investors and shareholders.

Milberg Weiss has been actively engaged in commercial litigation, emphasizing securities, consumer and antitrust class actions, for more than 25 years. The firm maintains offices in New York City, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco and is active in major litigations pending in federal and state courts throughout the United States.

If you are a member of the class described above, you may, not later than 60 days from today, move the court to serve as lead plaintiff of the class, if you so choose. In order to serve as lead plaintiff, however, you must meet certain legal requirements. If you wish to discuss this action or have any questions concerning this notice or your rights or interests with respect to these matters, please contact Milberg Weiss at One Pennsylvania Plaza, 49th Floor, New York, New York 10119-0165, by telephone at 1-800-390-7969, or via Internet electronic mail at PREZEKXJ@COUNSEL.COM or Lowey Dannenberg at The Gateway, One North Lexington Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 or by telephone at (914) 997-0500.

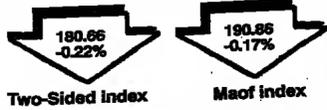
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market falls in anticipation of CPI next week

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCKS are seen influenced in days ahead by July's consumer price index, which could indicate whether the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates.

Yesterday, stock indexes were little changed as the shekel strengthened against the dollar, which pointed to lower profits for exporters. Some losses were offset by the gains in companies reporting rising earnings in the second quarter.

The Maof Index fell 0.17 percent to 190.86 and the Two-Sided Index dropped 0.22% to 190.66. The Maof Index rose 1.9% and the Two-Sided Index was up 1.7% from last Thursday, boosted by rising share prices on Wall Street.

Of 998 shares trading across the exchange, more than twice as many shares fell as rose. Some NIS 86.2 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 8.7m. above Wednesday's level and about NIS 15m. above this month's average daily trading level.

Declining export companies included chemical companies:

Makhtehim, Israel Chemicals, and Dead Sea Works all fell 2.25% and Dead Sea Bromine fell 1.5%.

Investors will be watching next week's July CPI for clues on the central bank's monetary policy, said Oren Meytes, a senior analyst at investment company Central Securities.

Gaining companies reporting second-quarter earnings included Two-Sided Index-listed Nice Systems, whose shares soared 10%.

Gaining Maof Index-listed shares included Africa Israel, which also jumped 10% and was the most active share with NIS 11.4m. shekels worth of shares changing hands: Bank Leumi, Africa Israel's majority owner, rose 1.25%. Meytes said the companies gained after investors examined the "fundamental" value of Africa Israel.

In late July, Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali said it would increase its stake in Migdal, owned in part by Leumi and Africa Israel. The transaction valued Migdal at over NIS 1 billion. (Bloomberg)

Euromarkets shrug off early Wall St. fall

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON, Aug 8 (Reuter) - Somnolent European financial markets barely noticed Wall Street's 25-point morning fall yesterday, and closed minutely stronger or down.

London's FTSE 100 ended 0.3 point higher than Wednesday's close, while Paris's CAC-40 took heart from a healthier franc to close up 0.68 points. Germany's electronic IBIS DAX was down 6.78 on the day.

The French franc, under pressure this week from nervousness over French government policy and its stance on monetary union, recovered its poise to trade at around 3.41 per mark. Its low for 1996 is 3.4530 to the mark.

But dealers said jitters about a delay to European economic and monetary union (EMU) would tend to dog the franc in coming weeks and months, as the market is keen to seize on any trading opportunities in the quiet summer conditions.

The franc dropped briefly below the 3.41 mark level on rumors of a split between President Jacques Chirac and Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet but recovered to around 3.4060.

A rangebound dollar sat quietly in the wings throughout a soporific European session, content to let cross moves take center stage. Summer-thinned market conditions produced some noteworthy moves in currencies such as the French franc, Finnish marka and sterling, but the U.S. unit found little to get its teeth into.

"Dollar/mark's been as dull as ditchwater, and everything else has been racing around," said Peter Heath, senior dealer at Merita Bank in London.

Dollar/yen mimicked dollar/mark's rangebound performance but managed to spend most of the session above 108 yen.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 5.18 points to close at 5,713.49, having recovered from an afternoon deficit of 33 points. The blue-chip barometer has risen in six of the previous seven sessions, adding nearly 285 points in that span.

"If you look at the Dow from the July 16 low, we're up 530 points, so I don't know how long you can keep winging this day by day. Obviously we're a little tired," said Larry Wachtel, market analyst at Prudential Securities. "You have to take the gliding days - the profit-taking days - in stride."

Broad-market indexes were mostly lower, but hung near opening levels for the fourth straight session. Speculative sectors outperformed the blue-chip

and larger-company measures that have rebounded more sharply from July.

Stocks were pressured most of the session by the bond market, which was contending with another flood of new securities from last month's slide.

As bond prices fell, the yield on existing 30-year Treasuries - a key influence on corporate and consumer borrowing costs - edged higher to 6.79 percent. But the damage was limited, relieving stock investors concerned that bonds might give back last week's big gains and send long-term interest back toward 7%.

Otherwise, there were few market-moving developments, although several leading retailers moved onto the most active lists after their monthly sales reports. Overall, the nation's retail chains saw sluggish results for July, but analysts said the underlying tone of business was still good.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

AFTERNOON

MORNING

Commercial Banks

Industrial

Investment Companies

Trade & Services

Property, Building & Agriculture

Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Property, Building & Agriculture

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Property, Building & Agriculture

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PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.1440 -0.19%

Sterling ... NIS 4.8632 -0.10%

Mark ... NIS 2.1151 -0.40%

INFLATION

New York market indexes

Last Change

DJ Industrial 8713.49 -0.18

DJ Transport 3793.11 +0.03

DJ Comp 4881.00 +0.07

NYSE Indus 300.00 +0.18

NYSE Transp 148.00 +0.18

NYSE Comp 200.00 +0.18

S&P 100 840.00 +0.18

S&P 500 840.00 +0.18

AMEX Comp 551.77 +0.18

NYSE stocks

Unchanged Advances Declines

Shares 1125 1125 1125

Volume up (in 1000) 180,000

Volume down (in 1000) 158,711

Other stock market indexes

Last Change

FTSE 100 3071.4 -0.3

Tel Aviv 190.86 -0.17

Singapore 2000.00 +0.05

Hong Kong 11164.3 -0.1

Israel 190.86 -0.17

Israeli stocks in NY

Last Change

NYS/AMEX

Am Tel 30.25 -0.05

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Lists various international stocks and their price changes.

INFLATION

CONNSTOCK TRADING LTD. Foreign financial data courtesy of Connstock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem. Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826. Fax. 02-244976.

INFLATION AND METALS US commodities London commodities Spot market metals (US) New York metal futures London metal fixes

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HOLIDAY RENTALS

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RENTALS

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RENTALS/SALES

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HERZLIYA PITUAH, QUIET, villa for rent, 4 bedrooms, swimming pool, marina to sea. Tel. 09-584-3083, 06-855-8203.

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DWELLINGS Haifa and North

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SERVICES Sharon Area

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TEACHER

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Dan Region

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HOUSEHOLD HELP

LIVE-IN, MOTHER'S HELPER, 20+, English-speaking, good conditions. Tel. 03-5344731.

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Sharon Area

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HERZLIYA PITUAH, FILIPINA, for cleaning, part time, references required. Tel. 03-560758.

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80 Ahuzat Ra'anana

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Haifa and North

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Please fax your curriculum vitae to 04-8737002.

PART-TIME ENGLISH SECRETARY

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PURCHASE/SALES

General

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Jerusalem

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PURCHASE/SALES

Sharon Area

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General

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PERSONALS

Tel Aviv

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PERSONALS

Haifa and North

COMPANION

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PETS

Jerusalem

FOR SALE

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VEHICLES

General

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VEHICLES

Jerusalem

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VEHICLES

Tel Aviv

PASSPORT

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VEHICLES

Sharon Area

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PASSPORT

Passport to Passport Moshe Dan, Kfar Shmaryahu, offers for sale

* 1994 Suzuki Swift, sliding roof, 17,000 km.

* 1989 Volkswagen Golf GL, 5 doors, 58,000 km

* 1986 Porsche 944, black, like new, 170,000 km.

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Bargain, 1980, Volvo Station, automatic, 32450.

09-580088, 09-582532

Passport to Passport

1990 Subaru Legacy Estate 57,000 ml. U.S. model

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Passport to Passport:

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Call Moshe Dan, Kfar Shmaryahu, 09-580088; Home: 09-582532

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TOYOTA COROLLA, 1992, 4 door, excellent condition. leaving country. Tel. 09-612153.

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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu congratulates this year's top trainee at the National Defense College, Col. Yisrael Ziv, at graduation ceremonies last night, as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai looks on. In his address, Netanyahu publicly backed the IDF, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and the entire General Staff, saying it was the duty of the IDF to give honest assessments to the political leadership. "I think that it is important to leave the IDF out of politics and if the IDF, or someone in the IDF, has been pushed into the political arena, the IDF and its commanders are not responsible," Netanyahu said. (Text: Aryeh O'Sullivan; Photo: Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

Levin resigns as Postal Authority director-general

POSTAL Authority director-general Ran Levin last night tendered his resignation and will leave the authority in three months.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat issued a statement saying she accepted his resignation and recognized the conclusion of the Postal Authority council earlier this week that there had been "no political motivation behind" the disappearance of 70 sacks of Likud election propaganda in May.

Levin, who was director-general for two years and previously a senior official in the Education Ministry, said that "under the present circumstances, I feel I can no longer contribute to the authority. I want to work in a place in which financial success

and service to the public are the only considerations."

Ma'ariv last month claimed that the postal service had "intentionally dumped" hundreds of thousands of Likud propaganda leaflets in its "dead-letter" warehouse in Jerusalem instead of delivering them to voters around the country at the end of May. A two-member ministry investigating committee found that the propaganda had been mislaid, but declared that politics was not a factor, as leaflets from other parties had gone undelivered as well.

The Postal Authority council confirmed that a "local failure" had occurred, but was especially

upset with Levin for conducting a "private investigation" of the incident among authority workers using a lie detector, and for not halting it even after he was told to do so.

Levin found the authority in administrative chaos two years ago, when his predecessor - Shas-appointed Amos Bracha - was finally forced out after losing a nearly two-year battle in the courts against his dismissal. During the legal battle there was no permanent director-general. During Levin's tenure, the authority expanded and upgraded services, introduced modern technology and wiped out its deficits.

Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said Livnat has not yet decided on a replacement.

One killed, 14 injured on roads yesterday

ONE person was killed and 14 injured, one critically, in traffic accidents yesterday.

Eli Golan Sivoni, 48, of Mevasseret Zion, was killed yesterday morning when he lost control of his car on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway near Ben-Gurion Airport. His four passengers were injured, one critically, two moderately and one lightly. They are at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin. Their car bumped into the guard rail and

then bounced back into traffic.

Eight people were lightly to moderately injured in a three-vehicle collision on the Jordan Valley Highway near Kibbutz Ofikim yesterday afternoon. This was the second accident at this location within a week; on Shabbat, two men were killed when their car swerved into a tree.

Ambulances took the eight to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. A 15-year-old driving a tractor illegally injured two girls his age

very early yesterday morning at Kibbutz Shafayim. The youth was driving recklessly and the tractor overturned, injuring the two girls who were riding on the sides of the vehicle.

The youth panicked and fled. The girls were taken to Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus in Petah Tikva, where they are expected to be kept for several days. Police are searching for the youth. (Tim)

(Continued from Page 1) on the issue right away. Brown's testimony in the Deri trial would probably have been discounted, he said.

"This was part of the Deri trial. It wasn't an issue of great urgency. It's not uncommon to wait [in such a case]," agreed criminal lawyer Yair Golan of Jerusalem. Krennitzer, however, disagreed. "On the face of it, it seems bizarre," he said. "There was cer-

tainly room to have investigated sooner... I'm not convinced [the police's] reason for waiting was a good one."

Ma'ariv said it seemed especially strange because a charge of obstructing justice against a lawyer is much more serious than a similar charge against an ordinary person.

"However, there is certainly a

difference between a suspicion that a lawyer has committed a crime and a suspicion against someone who is about to be named a minister, and especially justice minister," Krennitzer added. "Thus, even if the police were remiss, it is not possible to say that because we didn't investigate in the past, we won't do so now... This hurts the individual involved, but the consideration of the public interest is decisive."

(Continued from Page 1) Shaki) that the attorney-general's decision was afflicted by a clear, egregious, and extreme error.

Ne'eman also implied that he thought the State Attorney's Office might be biased against him because he is religious.

But despite his belief that the charges are baseless, he said, he felt it would be improper for him to continue to serve as justice minister while he was under investigation - though Yitzhak's

petition might also have been a factor, as the justices had said they would look at the petition differently if Ben-Yair found grounds for an investigation.

"A public figure who wishes to prove his innocence against such a serious charge must resign, and fight for his honor," Ne'eman said. "What I demand of the police and the attorney-general is that the investigation begin on Sunday and continue every day until it is finished... I resigned so that I can devote all my time next week to the investigation."

Ne'eman got unexpected support from Dror Hoter-Yishai, chairman of the Israel Bar Association, who wrote asking him to withdraw his resignation.

"Such nobility is out of place when it is a result of improper proceedings," wrote Hoter-Yishai. "A country in which a policeman's memorandum of a conversation with someone else,

which was filed in order to be pulled out at the right moment, can interfere with a minister's tenure and serve as a tool in the hands of those who wish him ill, is not a democratic one."

Ben-Yair responded to the accusations against him by saying the decision was supported by the State Attorney's Office, and that it was made "out of a feeling of responsibility towards the rule of law and the principle of equality before the law."

Saroh Honig adds: The resignation of Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman was not perceived as a major political problem by those around Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Apart from irksome comments directed at the attorney-general, the matter also failed to generate much concern in the Likud and other coalition parties. The consensus was that Ne'eman is not facing a serious threat to his future and that Netanyahu very much wants him back in the cabinet.

The In Jerusalem supplement appearing with the Friday edition of The Jerusalem Post

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האזנה מאלו

Pakistan reaches 281-6 on Ijaz century

LEEDS, England (Reuter) - Ijaz Ahmed with 141 hit his third Test century in 10 months yesterday as Pakistan reached 281-6 on the opening day of the second Test against England at Headingley.

Captain Michael Atherton's decision to put Pakistan in to bat appeared to pay off when Alan Mullally dismissed opener Saeed Anwar for one in the fourth over.

But Ijaz and Shadab Kabir (35) put on 97 for the second wicket and when Inzamam-ul-Haq went cheaply for two Salim Malik (55) joined Ijaz in a stand of 130.

England paceman Andy Caddick marked his recall with the wicket of Kabir - his first Test wicket since ending Brian Lara's historic 375 in Antigua two years ago - and returned with the new ball to have Wasim Akram caught behind for seven.

Dominic Cork dismissed both Ijaz and Salim, but generally England's all-pace attack struggled to assert itself. Pakistan is already 1-0 up in the three-Test series.

The visitors will be reasonably happy, although at 233-3 soon after tea they might have hoped for better.

Atherton won the toss for the first time this summer which has already seen a series against India and badly needed early results on an overcast Yorkshire day.

But the attack habitually bowled short of the ideal length - and often too wide - giving Ijaz the latitude to collect to his third hundred in the last four tests.

Saeed Anwar, with five successive Test half centuries behind him, played a loose shot at Mullally and Atherton claimed a waist-high catch in the gully.

Caddick had the left-handed Shadab Kabir lbw just before lunch, but suffered at the hands of

Ijaz who twice hit him for six. Ijaz also struck 21 fours in a fine innings.

Ul-Haq, who did so well at Lord's, was undone by one of the rare well-pitched up deliveries, taken like Saeed in the gully by Atherton off Mullally.

Ijaz, the first Pakistan batsman to score a century at Headingley, had batted 278 minutes and faced 201 balls when he stretched and chased a wide ball from Cork and was caught behind by Jack Russell off one of his few false strokes.

Salim completed a solid half century in 183 minutes, his first of the tour and first in Test cricket for 20 months, but Cork clipped his off-stump with an excellent delivery.

A major disappointment was the size of the crowd - only about 9,000.

England coach David Lloyd said of Atherton's decision to put Pakistan in: "When there is cloud around at Headingley there is always the chance it will do something. You have to be brave and make a decision."

He added: "We are optimistic about tomorrow and we will be trying to start batting as soon as possible. I would say that it was Pakistan's day but we made a good comeback in the last session."



President Ezer Weizman received a delegation of disabled athletes at Beit Hanassi yesterday. The 41-member delegation, which included tennis players Kinneret Wallach (r) and Tiki Aharoni (l) will be representing Israel next week at the Paralympics, held in Atlanta. The Israeli athletes will compete in swimming, athletics, weightlifting, lawn bowls, riding, tennis, table-tennis, volleyball and shooting. With thousands of competitors from around the world expected to compete, Israel is expecting stiff competition for every medal. Weizman wished the athletes success, assuring them that they are bringing the nation pride and prestige. (Text: Avraham Tshuvah Photo: Debbie Hill)

Rishon fails in first Euro-tie

DEREK FATTAL

IRONI Rishon LeZion became the third Israeli club in as many days to fail in European soccer competition last night.

Viko Hadad's side making its debut in continental action fell to a 1-0 defeat in the Moldovan capital Kishinyov last night to Constructorul in the first leg of the Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round tie.

The hosts' Sergei Rogachev scored the winning goal in the 20th minute, to the delight of the 6,000 home supporters.

The Rishonis, who spent the last three weeks in concentrated preparation for the game will be disappointed by the result, but should be capable of closing the margin when the sides resume battle in two weeks' time.

Rishon looks to be the Israeli club with the best chance of advancing to the next round of European competition after the setbacks suffered by Maccabi Tel

Aviv and Betar Jerusalem.

Nevertheless having failed to register a goal, Rishon will have to be especially careful to prevent Constructorul from scoring in the return leg and so benefiting from the away goals count double rule.

European Cup Winners' Cup qualifying round, first leg matches yesterday:

Karabakh Agdam (Azerbaijan) 0, MyPa-47 (Finland) 1. (halftime 0-0) Score: Sami Matri (5th minute)

Kotak Alavan (Armenia) 1, AEK Lamaca (Cyprus) 0. Score: Genk Babayan (80th)

Dinamo Batumi (Georgia) 6, Hamar Bolnisi (Paro island) 0.

FC Constructorul (Moldova) 1, Hapoel Ironi Rishon (Israel) 0 (1-0). Score: Sergei Rogachev (20th)

IFK Mogy (Belarus) 2, Rytovik (Belarus) 2. (0-0)

Cheriton Humenne (Slovakia) 1, Flamurari Vora (Albania) 0 (0-0). Score: Ruslan Lyubarsky (71st)

Talana Sadam (Estonia) 2, Niva Vorkuta (Ukraine) 1 (1-0). Score: Talina Sadam - Andrei Klov (25th, penalty), Kristian Vilmas (74th), Niva Vorkuta - Ruslan Pomortshuk (77th).

Universitas (Latvia) 0, Ventspils (Latvia) 1 (1-1). Score: Universitate - Agnis Zarins (45th), Ventspils - Maris Teras (42nd).

Kapad Hovos (Hungary) 1, Slova Aggostinos (Maccedonia) 0 (1-0). Score: Minlay Toth (12th).

Domestic soccer season begins with Toto Cup action

DEREK FATTAL

AFTER a week of European soccer action, this weekend sees the start of the domestic season as the National League's clubs begin the first round of the traditional season curtainraiser the Toto Cup.

Without doubt, the most interesting fixture is tomorrow evening's clash between Betar Jerusalem and newly promoted Hapoel Taiba, last season's Second Division champions. The match marks the first time ever that a club from the Israel's Arab sector has played in the National League.

Ironically Taiba's opening match as a member of the top flight sees it take to the field against the Jerusalemite club whose fans are

well known for their nationalistic fervor. The Betaris could still be reeling from their shattering 5-1 home defeat by Bodo/Gilim on Tuesday, but will be hoping to regain the faith of their fans as quickly as possible.

Toto Cup Fixtures, first round (kick off 16:30 tomorrow unless otherwise stated): Hapoel Beersheva v Hapoel Beit She'an, Beersheva, 18:00; Maccabi Haifa v Maccabi Petah Tikva, Nahariya; Betar Jerusalem v Hapoel Taiba, Teddy Stadium, 18:00; Maccabi Herzliya v Bnei Yehuda, Herzliya, today; Hapoel Petah Tikva v Hapoel Haifa, Petah Tikva; Hapoel Kfar Sava v Hapoel Jerusalem, Kfar Sava, today; Maccabi Tel Aviv v Zaitirim Holon, National Stadium, 18:00.

Appier gives A's a Royal headache

Kansas City's ace extends scoreless streak to 24 innings with two-hitter

KANSAS CITY (AP) - Kevin Appier pitched a two-hitter to extend his scoreless streak to 24 innings and won his fifth straight decision as Kansas City beat Oakland 7-0 on Wednesday night.

Appier (10-7) struck out five and walked two in his first shutout since Sept. 15, 1995.

Oakland lost for the 10th time in 13 games.

Craig Paquette hit a two-run triple as the Royals scored four unearned runs in the first. He added a solo homer, his 16th, in the eighth.

Oakland starter Ariel Prieto (2-5) dropped to 0-2 in three starts since coming off the disabled list July 28.

White Sox 8, Yankees 4

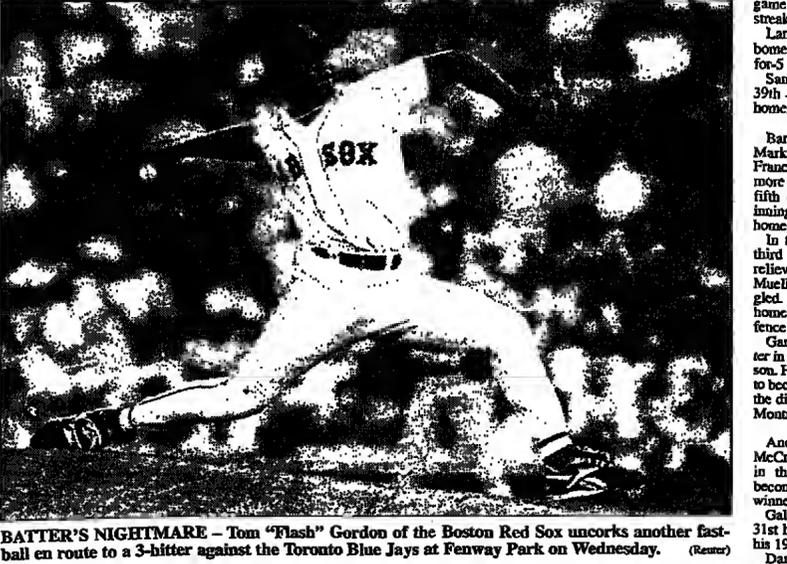
Harold Baines' one-out RBI single in the top of the 10th inning ignited a five-run rally for visiting Chicago.

The single by Baines scored Tony Phillips, who had opened the inning with an infield single and continued to second on a throwing error by Yankees' shortstop Derek Jeter. He moved to third on Ray Durham's fly to right.

After Jeff Nelson (4-3) walked Lyle Mouton, Baines greeted Dale Polley, the fifth of six New York pitchers, with a single to center.

Bob Wickman replaced Polley with the bases loaded and wild-pitched Mouton home, gave up a two-run double to Ron Karkovics.

Roberto Hernandez (3-1) pitched the final two innings, allowing an RBI



BATTER'S NIGHTMARE - Tom "Flash" Gordon of the Boston Red Sox uncorks another fast-ball en route to a 3-bitter against the Toronto Blue Jays at Fenway Park on Wednesday. (Reuter)

double to Wade Boggs in the bottom of the 10th.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 0

Tom Gordon pitched a three-bitter for his first shutout in almost six years and rookie Tony Rodriguez hit his first major league home run as host Boston extended its winning streak to four games.

Pat Hentgen (13-7), who had won his last six starts, allowed eight runs and nine hits in eight innings. He was 3-0 with a 0.74 ERA in his previous three starts.

Gordon (9-5) struck out eight and didn't walk a batter for the first time in his career. The right-hander carried a perfect game into the fifth inning before Ed Sprague got Toronto's first hit by singling on a 3-0 pitch. The shutout was his first since he blanked Seattle 8-0 on Sept. 2, 1990.

Mo Vaughn and Mike Greenwell also homered for the Red Sox.

Orlando 12, Brewers 2

Jeffrey Hammonds and Roberto Alomar hit consecutive homers, and Scott Erickson pitched a complete game for visiting Baltimore.

Rafael Palmeiro added a solo homer for the Orioles, who routed Milwaukee 13-3 on Tuesday night.

Erickson (6-10) won for the first time in seven starts since July 2 by allowing 10 hits in his fifth complete game. He walked none and struck out six.

Baltimore took a 6-1 lead in the second inning. Hammonds hit a two-run homer, his ninth, and Alomar hit a solo shot, his 16th, off Scott Karl (10-6). Chris Hoiles had an RBI double just before the consecutive home runs, and Cal Ripken and Bobby Bonilla added two-run scoring doubles.

Tigers 4, Rangers 2

Travis Fryman and Bobby Higginson hit first-inning home runs, and Detroit handed visiting Texas starter Roger Pavlik his fourth straight defeat.

Pavlik (12-6), who was selected for the All-Star game, is 0-4 with a 6.00 ERA in his last four starts. He struck out 10, but allowed four runs on eight hits in 7 1/2 innings. He has not won since July 13 and his four-game losing streak is a career worst.

John Cummings (1-0) pitched two innings in relief for the Tigers, who have won nine of 13. After starter Brian Williams allowed two runs in the fifth, Cummings came in and pitched out of a bases-loaded jam.

Gregg Olson allowed a double and a single in the ninth, but Mike Myers struck out Will Clark on three pitches to earn his fourth save. It was Texas' fifth loss in seven games.

Mets 11, Cubs 7

Ray Ordonez cleared the bases with a triple to highlight a five-run ninth inning for visiting New York.

The Mets, who had rallied from five runs down to tie it 6-6 in the sixth, salvaged the final game of the three-

game series and ended their losing streak at three.

Lance Johnson had the first two-bomber game of his career and went 4-for-5 for the Mets.

Sammy Sosa hit his NL-leading 39th homer, one of three two-run homers by the Cubs.

Cleats 9, Reds 2

Barry Bonds hit a grand slam and Mark Gardner pitched host San Francisco's first complete game in more than two months. Bonds hit his fifth career grand slam in the sixth inning as the Giants beat the Reds at home for the first time in seven games.

In the sixth, Gardner reached on a third strike wild pitch from Reds reliever Scott Service before Bill Mueller and Glennan Hill each singled. Bonds followed with his 32nd homer this season, a drive over the fence in right.

Gardner (10-4) pitched a seven-hitter in his third complete game this season. He struck out five and walked one to become the first Giants pitcher to go the distance since Mark Leiter won at Montreal on June 2.

Rockies 12, Marlins 5

Andres Calatunga and Quinton McCracken each homered and drove in three runs to help Kevin Rizo become host Colorado's first 13-game winner.

Calatunga went 3-for-4 and hit his 31st homer, a three-run shot to match his 1995 home run total.

Dante Bichette and Ellis Burks added two RBIs apiece for Colorado.

Rizo (13-7) shook off a shaky start and allowed eight hits in 6 1/2 innings to become the first pitcher in the Rockies' four-year history to win 13 games in a season.

Braves 14, Phillies 1 (8)

John Smoltz, pitching with a slight fracture of his non-pitching wrist, won his major-league leading 18th game as host Atlanta routed mistake-prone Philadelphia in a rain-shortened game.

Smoltz (18-6) allowed five hits, an unearned run, didn't walk a batter and struck out six to raise his major-league lead to 201.

Smoltz, wearing a small black brace, sustained a chip fracture to a bone in his left wrist when struck by a line drive off the bat of Juan Castro in his last start Friday night in Los Angeles.

The right-hander, expected to miss possibly two starts, didn't miss any. He left after five innings and the Braves leading 13-1.

- AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS**
- BATTING - Rodriguez, Seattle, .361; Knoblauch, Minnesota, .356; FThomas, Chicago, .356; Ramirez, Seattle, .354; Cirillo, Milwaukee, .333; Franco, Cleveland, .333; Moller, Minnesota, .333.
- RUNS - Knoblauch, Minnesota, 102; Rodriguez, Seattle, 88; Ramirez, Baltimore, 84; Loftis, Cleveland, 82; Bello, Cleveland, 82; Martinez, Seattle, 88; Phillips, Chicago, 88.
- RBI - Bello, Cleveland, 106; MVAughn, Boston, 104; Buhner, Seattle, 101; Gonzalez, Texas, 99; GVaughn, Milwaukee, 95; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 95; FThomas, Chicago, 92; Griffey, Seattle, 92.
- HITS - Loftis, Cleveland, 157; Moller, Minnesota, 154; MVAughn, Boston, 148; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 145; Rodriguez, Seattle, 144; Ramirez, Baltimore, 144; Rodriguez, Texas, 143.
- DOUBLES - Martinez, Seattle, 41; Rodriguez, Seattle, 39; Rodriguez, Texas, 35; Garret, Oakland, 32; Cordova, Minnesota, 31; Greer, Texas, 31; Ramirez, Cleveland, 30; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 30; Cora, Seattle, 30.
- TRIPLES - Knoblauch, Minnesota, 11; Vna, Milwaukee, 7; Orlan, Kansas City, 7; Wladimir, Kansas City, 6; Coz, Seattle, 6; Carter, Toronto, 6; 6 are tied with 5.
- HOME RUNS - McCarver, Oakland, 39; Bello, Cleveland, 37; MVAughn, Boston, 34; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 34; ByAnderson, Baltimore, 34; JGonzalez, Texas, 33; Buhner, Seattle, 33.
- STOLEN BASES - Loftis, Cleveland, 55; TGoddwin, Kansas City, 50; Nixon, Toronto, 33; Vizquel, Cleveland, 29; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 27; Lstach, Milwaukee, 24; McLamora, Texas, 21.
- PITCHING
- DECISIONS - Nagy, Cleveland, 12-3, 8.00, 3.61; Alvarez, Chicago, 14-5, 7.37, 3.66; BWellis, Seattle, 11-4, 7.33, 4.33; Hitchcock, Seattle, 11-4, 7.33, 4.93; Pompa, New York, 16-9, 7.27, 4.27; Pavlik, Texas, 12-6, 6.00, 4.75; Bostia, California, 10-5, 6.67, 4.90; KHar, Texas, 12-6, 6.67, 3.64; Gorder, New York, 10-5, 6.67, 3.93.
- SHUTOUTS - Clemens, Boston, 16; Finley, California, 12; Alvarez, Chicago, 14; Appier, Kansas City, 14; FThomas, Chicago, 14; Guzman, Toronto, 13; Muehle, Baltimore, 13; SAVES - Wetteland, New York, 38; R Hernandez, Chicago, 31; Percovich, Houston, 27; Mesa, Toronto, 27; Hamilton, Kansas City, 21; Timlin, Toronto, 20; Fitters, Milwaukee, 20; R Myers, Baltimore, 20.

Elkington leads in PGA Championship

LOUISVILLE (Reuter) - Defending champion Steve Elkington shot a five-under-par 67 yesterday to hold a one-stroke lead early in the first round of the PGA Championship at untested Valhalla Golf Club.

Elkington birdied the final hole to grab the lead from Mark Brooks, who made six consecutive birdies in the middle of his round, for 68.

Brooks was one shot clear of Masters champion Nick Faldo, who made eight birdies and five bogeys, David Edwards and John Cook.

However there were a lot of other players within range on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course, which is hosting its first championship of any significance.

Elkington played a very steady round, making six birdies and only one bogey on the 7,144-yard, par-72 course.

Elkington played a very steady round, making six birdies and only one bogey on the 7,144-yard, par-72 course.

NBA, Heat wrangle over contracts

NEW YORK (AP) - In an increasingly complex legal scenario, Juwan Howard's contract remains in limbo and the National Basketball Association is looking into the contracts of three other Miami Heat players, including Alonzo Mourning.

The Heat's contract with Howard already has been voided by the league. Now the NBA is questioning the timing of the Heat's agreement with Mourning and the validity of bonus clauses in the contracts of Tim Hardaway and P.J. Brown.

The league contends the Heat and Mourning agreed to the terms of his seven-year, \$112 million contract long before the deal was announced and, more important, before the team signed Howard.

Since the Mourning deal was mostly finished, the NBA says, the Heat had no room under the cap to offer Howard seven years and about \$100 million.

Under the NBA's salary cap, if teams can exceed the limits to sign one of its own free agents, but not to sign a free agent from another team.

Politicians, Greens: Keep Yanks in the house that Ruth built

NEW YORK (AP) - New York and New Jersey officials opposed to a move by the Yankees are hoping to get their licks in against owner George Steinbrenner.

Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, state Sen. Franz Leichter and others vowed Wednesday to keep the team not only in New York but in the Bronx.

At a City Hall news conference, the officials criticized Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for not being tougher with Steinbrenner. They said that by accepting the Yankee owner's claim he can easily move to the Meadowlands in New Jersey, the mayor has given Steinbrenner an enormous advantage in negotiations for a new stadium.

Steinbrenner has said he may move the franchise to New Jersey when the team's lease for Yankee Stadium expires after the 2002 season.

"Steinbrenner is making pony threats that he will move the team to New Jersey to get what he really wants - a new ballpark in Manhattan paid for by taxpayers," Leichter said.

"While Mayor Giuliani is usually as combative as a snapping turtle in these situations, unfortunately,

he has been gentle as a pussy-cat with Steinbrenner," the Democratic senator said of the Republican mayor.

Yankees spokesman Richard Cerrone said the team had no comment.

Giuliani spokeswoman Colleen Roche said, "The mayor has said time and time again that he wants the Yankees to stay in the Bronx and anyone who believes otherwise just isn't listening. Ultimately, it will be a business decision made by George Steinbrenner."

The cost of renovating the 73-year-old stadium in the Bronx, which underwent two years of modernizing in the 1970s, has been estimated at \$770 million, according to a study by the architectural firm of Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum. A new stadium on the West Side of Manhattan has been estimated at just over \$1 billion.

New Jersey officials and environmentalists note that the Meadowlands already is crowded with sports teams and stadiums.

Nine environmentalist groups object to any proposal for a new stadium in the Meadowlands, saying it would eradicate significant wetland acreage.

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
East Division	67	45	.598	-	2-5	Lost 1	36-16	31-27
New York	58	54	.518	9	7-3	Won 3	29-30	29-24
Baltimore	53	60	.469	14 1/2	7-3	Won 4	33-25	20-35
Toronto	52	62	.458	15	2-5	Lost 3	27-28	25-34
Detroit	38	74	.345	28 1/2	7-3	Won 1	22-33	17-41
Central Division	88	46	.655	-	2-4	Won 2	33-22	36-23
Cleveland	63	51	.553	8	6-3	Won 1	30-23	33-28
Chicago	56	59	.482	14	4-4	Lost 2	28-29	27-30
Milwaukee	54	59	.478	14 1/2	2-4	Won 2	29-32	26-27
Minnesota	52	62	.461	16 1/2	6-4	Won 2	26-33	27-29
Kansas City	53	62	.461	16 1/2	6-4	Won 2	26-33	27-29
West Division	63	51	.553	-	4-6	Lost 1	38-23	25-28
St. Louis	61	52	.536	2	4-6	Lost 2	30-27	30-26
Seattle	56	59	.487	7 1/2	2-8	Lost 3	25-30	31-29
Oakland	52	61	.460	10 1/2	2-8	Lost 3	33-23	19-38
NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
East Division	70	42	.625	-	6-4	Won 4	40-18	30-24
Atlanta	63	49	.563	7	8-2	Won 5	35-22	28-27
New York	54	61	.470	17 1/2	2-5	Won 1	31-26	21-35
Florida	52	62	.458	19	3-7	Lost 2	34-23	18-33
Philadelphia	47	67	.412	24	5-5	Lost 2	25-27	22-40
Central Division	81	63	.565	-	2-6	Won 1	29-24	32-29
St. Louis	61	53	.532	1	5-5	Lost 2	33-23	27-30
Houston	60	54	.520	1	4-4	Won 2	32-29	29-29
Cincinnati	53	55	.490	8	5-4	Won 2	32-29	29-29
Chicago	55	56	.487	6 1/2	2-4	Won 1	29-31	25-32
Pittsburgh	51	63	.447	10	3-7	Won 1	29-31	25-32
West Division	61	55	.528	-	2-5	Lost 1	31-29	30-28
San Diego	59	55	.518	1	2-5	Lost 1	31-26	28-30
Colorado	55	55	.500	5 1/2	1-6	Lost 1	31-26	28-30
Los Angeles	55	55	.500	5 1/2	1-6	Lost 1	31-26	28-30
San Francisco	47	65	.420	12	2-3	Won 1	27-30	20-35

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Peres: PM has no mandate to ignore half the electorate

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres yesterday blasted the government, saying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "did not get a mandate to destroy everything that Labor has achieved."

Speaking at Labor's executive meeting, Peres launched a sharp attack on Netanyahu's policies.

"The state does not belong to the prime minister, and even he should understand that uniting the people means uniting both its halves, not getting a mandate from half the people and wiping out the other half," Peres said.

"They said a new government should get 100 days of grace, but the people didn't get even one day's grace from them." He listed what he said were the government's mistakes, including renegeing on the budget slash, plunging the economy into a state of stagnation, the "Lebanon first" proposals Netanyahu sent Syrian President Hafez Assad, and the "fatal blow" to the credibility and prestige of the top military commanders.

Peres also criticized the internal disputes and power struggles in Labor. "We can't behave like Chinese generals and have everyone give dates [for electing a new leader]," he said. "There will be a

convention in February, and in July the party chairman and candidate for prime minister will be elected."

MK Haim Ramon, who did not come to the meeting, was quoted yesterday in *Yedioth Aharonot*, in an interview excerpted from today's *Tel Aviv* weekly, accusing MK Ehud Barak and his associates of sabotaging the election campaign.

"If this was war, they would be executed for treason," Ramon is quoted as saying.

"The people around Barak tried to sabotage from the first moment. I worked on two fronts, against the Likud and against the saboteurs from within. They also spread slander and personal gossip about me and Pnina [his wife] and deliberately concealed material and surveys from me. All Barak's camp cared about was how often he appeared in the campaign broadcasts."

Barak, in response, said he believed that when Ramon "calms down," he would regret what he said and retract most of it.

Labor's executive set up teams to respond to the government's activities. Its team for foreign and security issues consists of the party's entire Knesset faction.



Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (right) meets with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny yesterday.

Sharansky: Cairo not preparing seriously for economic summit

DAVID HARRIS

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday that he is not satisfied with Egypt's preparations for the economic summit scheduled for Cairo in November. While refusing to comment on the possibility the summit will be canceled if peace talks do not resume, Sharansky did say he is concerned it will turn into little more than a public relations exercise.

"I have heard hints that the summit may be canceled, but have had no clear reports," he said. Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny yesterday reaffirmed his view that the summit will only go ahead if bilateral peace talks recommence between Jerusalem and Damascus, Beirut and the PA by next month.

However, Sharansky said "putting pressure on the Cairo summit by linking it to the peace talks is a big mistake."

Bassiouny and Sharansky met yesterday, but did not talk specifically about the summit.

"I told Mr. Sharansky that if we speak about economic cooperation it must be under the umbrella of peace," the ambassador said.

Bilateral trade between Egypt and Israel will not be affected by a failure to relaunch peace negotiations, but this would impact on regional ventures, Bassiouny said.

While preparations for the November gathering are progressing both here and in the US, Sharansky is not convinced the same effort is being made in Cairo.

"It all depends on the attitude of

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WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.
Shabbat: Slight drop in temperatures mainly inland.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F	C		
Alexandria	10	50	24	75	partly cloudy
Berlin	16	61	20	68	cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	70	26	79	clear
Cairo	21	70	26	79	partly cloudy
Chengde	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Chongqing	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Damascus	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Hanoi	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Harbin	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Hong Kong	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Jakarta	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
London	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Madrid	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Manila	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Moscow	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
New York	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Paris	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Rome	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Sydney	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Tokyo	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy
Yokohama	10	50	15	59	partly cloudy

Winning cards

IN yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, the ace of hearts, the jack of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

Israel Bonds head Sharony resigning

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

NATAN Sharony, the president and CEO of Israel Bonds, will be leaving his post at the beginning of next year.

Sharony, a retired major-general, said his resignation, after three years in the post, reflects a decision to spend more time with his family.

He said it was unrelated to the elections or the free-market plans of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

In the last year, Israel has successfully started raising capital directly on Wall Street, which limits how much Israel Bonds is permitted to raise.

Sharony's successor is expected to face increased competition for investment from Wall Street, where Netanyahu met with American business leaders last month.

More arrests in Argentine Jewish center bombing

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Argentine police yesterday arrested three suspected dealers in stolen cars, following a request from a judge investigating the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish center that killed 86.

Judge Juan Jose Galeano asked authorities in the northwestern province of Catamarca to investigate local car repair shops for links with a van that was used as a car bomb in the attack.

Catamarca Judge Felipe Teran said the detainees were suspected of "being part of a network of traf-

fickers in cars, but we are also going to investigate if they have any links with the AMIA case."

Three senior Buenos Aires policemen and one retired officer were indicted by Galeano in late July. They are suspected of providing the van used in the bombing.

NRP's Religious Affairs director-general backs out

LIAT COLLINS

IT took two months for Shas and the National Religious Party to decide who would serve first as religious affairs minister, but only three days for the first director-general to resign.

Menahem Cohen, who was to become Religious Affairs Ministry director-general on behalf of the NRP, announced yesterday he had changed his mind, citing the cumbersome system of control in the ministry. Shortly after his announcement, the Shas candidate for the director-general's post - Asher Ohana - who was to replace Cohen next year, also said he would not take up the position.

Under a deal worked out earlier this week, it was decided that Shas's Eli Suissa, who is also interior minister, will hold the Religious Affairs portfolio first, rotating every year with NRP Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. Two deputy ministers - the NRP's Yigal Bihi and Shas's Arye Gamliel - would serve together for the whole four years. The directors-general would serve in alternate years, always having a director-general from the opposite party of the serving minister.

Cohen currently serves as Hammer's adviser in the Education Ministry and is considered a major player there. He has been awaiting an appointment as ministry deputy director-general.

Sources close to the NRP suggested that Cohen, who had been reluctant to accept the Religious Affairs post to begin with, decided that the move would not constitute much of a promotion because of the system of deputy ministers and rotating mandates.

News of Cohen's resignation unleashed a battle for the post within the NRP. The main candidate is Ya'acov Soler, a former city Bnei Brak city councillor. Bihi is known, however, to favor Avi Blustein, who served with him when he was deputy environment minister in the last Likud government.

Shas is expected to replace Ohana with Yehuda Avidan, who is close to Aryeh Deri.

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August '96

STEINMAZKY'S OFFER

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BORDER MUSIC - ROBERT JAMES WALLER
REDEMPTION - LEON URIS
THE RAINMAKER - JOHN GRISHAM
THE LOST WORLD - MICHAEL CRICHTON

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